

JANUARY 1987



M A G A Z I N E



America's Forgotten Fronts

"Lives of great men all remind us

We can make our lives sublime,

And, departing, leave behind us

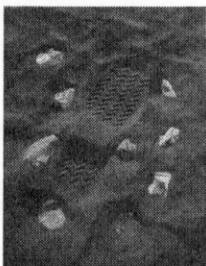
Footprints on the sands of time."

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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CONTENTS



This footprint in the sand serves to remind us all that Americans have served and still are serving on the frontiers of freedom. The inset portions of the map identify some of the areas where American blood has been shed in the defense of freedom or in keeping the peace: in the Sinai Desert; on the DMZ in Korea; in Southeast Asia; in the jungles of Panama, and elsewhere in Central America. In short, everywhere else in the world where American strength and dedication to freedom sends them to man the defenses on the "Forgotten Fronts." Photograph by Tal Wilson. The story begins on page 22.

Forgotten Fronts by Richard K. Kolb. Americans are manning the outposts of freedom throughout the world, and have since the end of World War II. The writer reviews several of the areas where Americans are serving and details the casualties they have sustained over the years.

22



U.S. A Terrorist Target by James K. Anderson. Four experts on terrorism, two of them former hostages, give their views on this subject so vital to Americans. It is also one which the VFW repeatedly has denounced. At the 87th National Convention, a VFW resolution reminded: "There are no neutrals in this war."

28



The Last Man on Guam by G. Max Gray. After 31 months on Guam, a Navy radioman was found hiding when the island was liberated by American forces. When the Japanese invaded on Dec. 8, 1941, the handful of defenders, except George Tweed, were virtually wiped out by the Japanese.

32

The Bear That Flies by Howard Silber. Not far from the closest U.S. point to the Soviet Union, Russian Bear-H planes are making increasingly frequent flights near Alaska. In this account, pilots who have encountered the aircraft tell of their experiences and assess the plane's capability.

35

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| COMMAND POST | 4 | VFW IN ACTION | 42 |
| MAIL CALL | 8 | MEMBERSHIP | 46 |
| WASHINGTON WIRE | 11 | SERVICE WINS | 49 |
| NOW HEAR THIS | 14 | GENERAL ORDERS | 50 |
| NATIONAL HOME | 16 | CLAIMS | 57 |
| MEMBER BENEFITS | 39 | REUNIONS | 58 |
| IN THE FIELD | 40 | JUST A MINUTE | 64 |

VFW Will Fight VA Budget Cuts



Norman G. Staab
VFW Commander-in-Chief

would "have extreme consequences." He is quoted as having added that the government would violate its obligation to veterans who "suffered no injuries or diseases because of their service."

These proposals will have dire consequences for the nation's aging veteran population. By the turn of the century, 8.9 million veterans will be over 65.

If these cuts are allowed to stand, millions of veterans will be forced to go either to welfare agencies if they cannot afford medical care or to private hospitals, and, with the spiralling cost of medical care, it is

likely only a minority will be able to afford it.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will fight this with every weapon at its disposal, and all members of this great organization are called on to join in this cause.

We have seen attempts like this before under previous Administrations and other OMBs. We have defeated them before with the unyielding support of Congress. We will do it again. We will have the support of all the 2.7 million members of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary.

We will prevail.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will strongly resist any attempts by the Office of Management and Budget to cut \$1 billion, most of it in veterans' health care, from the 1988 VA budget.

A shocking report in the Dec. 19 New York Times, based on confidential budget documents, says OMB is seeking to wipe out medical care for non-service connected veterans with income of more than \$15,000 a year and for married veterans with incomes of more than \$18,000.

Last year, the VFW fought for, and Congress approved, this. You can be certain that if this comes to fruition, it will not be because the VFW did not fight. We will fight against this and all the other cuts reportedly in the works when President Reagan gives Congress his budget message on Jan. 5.

Other slashes include cancellation of \$160 million in money Congress already has appropriated for veterans' medical care in this current fiscal year. Nearly 9,000 health care personnel would be eliminated this fiscal year and next.

VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage is reported to have protested the proposals and warned that they



Vice President George Bush receives a \$1 million check from Korean industrialist S.H. Park for the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

MIA/POW Issue

In the welter of revelations concerning the arms deals with Iran and the efforts being made to free Americans held hostage in Lebanon, it would seem as if the question of Americans missing in action or held prisoner in Southeast Asia has been lost in the shuffle.

An indication of what has happened to the MIA/POW issue in the wake of the Iranian disclosures was

the virtually invisible story recently of an American military team's trip to Hanoi just before Thanksgiving to recover possible remains of three Americans listed as missing-in-action.

American awareness of the MIA/POW issue must not be allowed to evaporate in the face of this current

continued on page 10

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VFW OBJECTIVES

To insure the national security through maximum military strength
To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans
To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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454

MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU
OF CIRCULATION

(ISSN 0161-8598)

Recalls Liberty Memorial

I was most pleased to see the good article on the Liberty Memorial (November) by Dan Hubble. It was informative and complimentary to what I consider the finest veterans' memorial in the U.S., bar none.

Perhaps it is because I grew up in Kansas City and lived reasonably close to the grand old lady who overlooks the Union Station and downtown Kansas City. I recall seeing Kate Smith in person there on Armistice Day, and many are the Armistice Day (now Veterans Day) parades I have seen end at that inspiring location. Those parades used to line up beginning about 9th and Grand, and march (it seemed like hours) down Grand and finally up the hill to the memorial.

There were National Guard units, high school ROTC units, units from neighboring military schools, VFW drum-n-bugle corps units as well as American Legion groups, high school bands by the score, VFW and Legion Auxiliary units, floats depicting a variety of war-related incidents, Gold Star Mothers and on and on.

Finally, all would mass on the mall which stretches about three blocks south of the memorial herself and listen to an inspiring speech by a prominent personage. I remember how proud I was to be in one of those ROTC units on Nov. 11, 1938, but that Springfield got a little heavy by the time we completed our parade.

My father (a WWI veteran) was active in Post 18, VFW, and was invariably on one of its floats in the parade. As a lad, I was usually lucky enough to ride in the cab of the truck bearing the float and got the full effect of such a grand and lengthy parade. — *Fr. Theron R. Hughes, Jr., Chaplain, Post 588, Concordia, Kans. 66901.*

Post's Memorial

Congratulations to Post 4325, Mattoon, Ill., for dedicating a memorial

solely to Korean War veterans in July, 1986 (November). Post 639, Malden, Mass., erected and dedicated a memorial plaque at the Malden Government Center last Memorial Day to honor the 11 servicemen from that city who made the supreme sacrifice during the Korean War. — *Charles J. Lawson, PO Box 451, Malden, Mass. 02148.*

Challenge Met

I hate to burst the bubble of the Ekdahl family of VFW Post 3897 of L'Anse, Mich. (Mail Call, November), but a challenge is a challenge. Post 4376, Seven Points, Texas, currently lists on our Life Member roll seven members of the Oliver family. The brothers, whose service records extend from WWII through Vietnam are Leonard, Wilson, James, Norman, Tommy, Donald and Morris. The sister is a member of the Auxiliary. Another oddity: The license plate of the Post Adjutant, not a vanity plate, but issued routinely, is DV-4376. — *Lee Colburn, Adjutant, PO Box 43401, Seven Points, Texas 75143.*

In the November issue Mail Call, a challenge was made by the six Ekdahl brothers of L'Anse, Mich., to beat their record of members of one family belonging to a Post. We, of the Guillemette family, accept and reply to the challenge with seven brothers from one family who belong to Post 611 in Taunton, Mass. They are Adelard, Roger, Joseph, Henry, Albert, Roland and Romeo Guillemette. Three served in WWII, three in Korea and one in Vietnam.

We, of the Guillemette family, wish to thank and congratulate the Ekdahl family for the challenge they have extended, which we duly accept. It is an honor for us all to be able to say we served our country to preserve our freedom and nation. — *The Guillemette Family, Post 611, Taunton, Mass. 02780.*

More on COLA

Regarding Louis Fields in the September Mail Call:

To evaluate equal justice under pension laws you have to know several things in addition to the COLA adjustment: years of service contributed to pension entitlement; salary replacement rate; total anticipated pension compensation; or to recap, years of creditable service times salary replacement rate plus COLA equals total pension compensation.

Rest assured that total pension compensation for military and public service retirees, fairly judged and even without the COLA, is far superior to that received by practically all Social Security retirees. — *Marvin Vogel, 4465 So. 62 St., Greenfield, Wis. 53220.*

Seeks Help

I am eager to correspond with anyone who served on the USS Hornet or the USS Mahan in or near the Gulf of Tonkin in January, 1966. — *Dr. Alan Morgan, Drawer V, Post Office, Lake Crystal, Minn. 56055.*

Correction

The address of George A. Puckett commenting on "Wake Remembered" (Mail Call, November) should have been 26 North Main Street, Broken Bow, Okla. 74728, not Broken Arrow, Okla.

Letters should be of no more than 100 words and deal with only one subject. Editing for space, clarity and good taste may be necessary. Published letters include the sender's name and address to enable readers to reply directly. Anonymous mail is not considered for publication. Space limitations preclude use of all the letters received.

White House crisis and in the reaction of Congress, the media and the public-at-large to it.

You may rest assured that the VFW will not let the MIA/POWs be placed on the back burner or allow President Reagan to forget that early on he said they were of first priority.

The VFW will not forget that 14 years ago on Jan. 27, the Vietnamese Communists signed the Paris Accords under which they agreed to return Americans they held prisoner and to account for the missing. In return, American troops left Vietnam the following March.

Only after the American people demanded action, and President Reagan — three presidents later — responded to their appeals, did Hanoi begin to live up to its side of the bargain.

At the 87th National VFW Convention, delegates passed eight resolutions addressing the question of the missing and prisoners, if any,

and you may be certain no National officer will neglect his responsibility in pressing for the goals implicit in each of these resolutions.

Depressing though the subject of the MIA/POWs is, the latest development in the VFW's continuing campaign for the memorial to those who served in the Korean War elates us all.

President Reagan has signed the bill authorizing erection of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington at a cost of \$6 million under the direction of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The President will appoint an advisory board of 12 Korean War veterans to recommend a site and design for the memorial. The commission will approve the location and design.

The law calls for the appropriation of \$1 million for a start. Half will be used for site preparation, design and planning and the other half for construction.

Funding for the monument will come from private contributions. Funds raised over the \$6 million estimated cost will go to the Treasury.

In Washington, there is a monument to every major conflict in which our country has been engaged except the Korean War. This law is recognition that is long overdue, and the VFW has worked long and hard with Congress to remember these forgotten veterans.

On Veterans Day, Vice President George Bush, said to be the youngest commissioned Navy pilot in World War II, received an amazing gift from a Korean industrialist.

S.H. Park, president of Hyundai Motor America, presented Vice President Bush with a \$1 million check for the planning, design and administration of the memorial.

In a letter to President Reagan, Park recalled the Korean War and the generosity of American troops. ■

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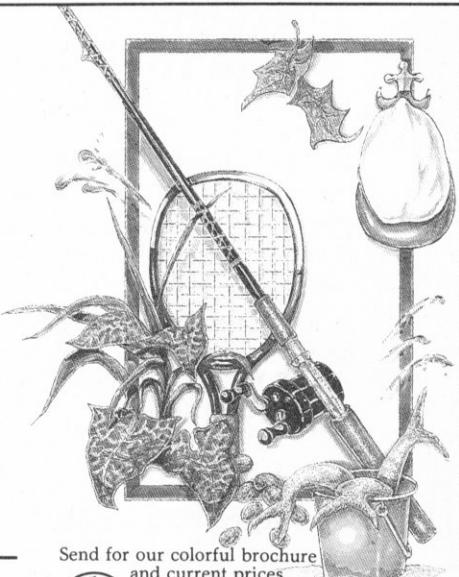
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WASHINGTON WIRE

LEGISLATIVE

Korean War Memorial Law: President Reagan has signed into law H.R. 2205 that authorizes the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABC) to establish a memorial to honor U.S. Armed Forces members who served in the Korean War.

The new law, now PL 99-572, establishes a Korean War Veterans' Memorial Advisory Board of 12 Korean War veterans. It will be responsible for recommending the site and selecting the design for the memorial subject to ABC approval.

While the law provides \$1 million in federal funding, one half for site preparation, planning and administrative costs and the other half for construction costs, ABC is authorized to solicit and accept private contributions.

For those who want to contribute, checks for the Korean War Memorial should be made payable to the VFW-Korean Memorial Fund and mailed to VFW National Headquarters, Broadway and 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111-Attn: Korean Memorial.

Shaping 100th Congress: One of the lightest voter turnouts in modern history — 37% of those eligible — returned U.S. Senate control to the Democrats on Nov. 4. While many predicted the Senate majority would revert to the Democrats, the size of the shift was surprising.

As opposed to the 99th Congress, with its ratio of 53 Republicans to 47 Democrats, the 100th Congress will have 55 Democrats to 45 Republicans. By adding eight seats, the Democrats have set new challenges for President Reagan now that they control both Houses of Congress. For Reagan, the challenge will be to seek compromises with Congress or run the risk of having his program caught in a deadlock.

On the other hand, the Democrats now will be forced to produce because they cannot use a Republican Senate as an excuse for party defeats.

With the changing party control in the Senate, leadership positions also will change. Sen. Robert Byrd (W.Va.) has been elected the majority leader. Also reelected were Alan Cranston (Calif.) as majority whip and Daniel K. Inouye (Hawaii) as secretary of the Democratic Caucus. John C. Stennis (Miss.) was named president pro tempore, a post by tradition that goes to the most senior member of the majority party.

In recognition of Sen. George Mitchell's efforts as chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee in helping the Democrats regain control of the Senate, the Democratic Caucus elected him to the position of Senate deputy president pro tempore.

It has been vacant. Sen. John Kerry (Mass.) was elected to succeed Sen. Mitchell as chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

On the Republican side of the aisle, Sen. Bob Dole (Kans.) was elected minority leader. Also reelected to their current posts by Senate Republicans were Alan K. Simpson (Wyo.), assistant minority leader; John H. Chafee (R.I.), conference chairman; Thad Cochran (Miss.), conference secretary, and William L. Armstrong (Colo.) as Policy Committee chairman.

Also added to the Republican leadership were Rudy Boschwitz (Minn.) as chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee and Paul S. Trible, Jr. (Va.), as chairman of the Committee on Committees, which makes GOP committee assignments.

Sen. Cranston will be the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and Sen. Frank Murkowski will be the new ranking minority member. Because of the shift in party control, the Republicans will have two fewer members on the committee for the 100th Congress and the Democrats will be allowed to add one. It is anticipated the new Democratic member will be freshman Bob Graham, former governor of Florida. As of this late November writing, the Republicans have not indicated who will leave the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. With the defeat of Sen. Jeremiah Denton, however, the Republicans will have to remove only one member instead of two.

The House of Representatives, as expected, will remain in Democratic hands as it has for 32 years. With the retirement of Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, the only significant House change will be the election of a new Speaker and majority leader. Expected to be elected Speaker is Rep. Jim Wright, (Texas), the current majority leader. At this time, it is unclear who will emerge victorious in the battle for majority leader.

Across the aisle, it appears the Republicans fared very well. They held their losses to fewer than ten seats in the sixth year of President Reagan's term. Historically, the party that controls the White House has often suffered serious losses in off-year elections. As of this writing, three contests are subject to a recount. If the three certified Republican winners survive the challenge, the ratio in the House will be 258 Democrats to 177 Republicans.

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee again will be chaired by Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery. It is not certain at this time who will be the ranking minority member. This decision will, in all likelihood, be made after the 100th Congress convenes later this month.

WASHINGTON WIRE

SERVICE

VA Medical Care Expenditures: During Fiscal Year 1985, of each dollar the VA spent on medical care, the lion's share went to inpatient services to the tune of 63.04%. Outpatient services were administered with a 22.36% slice of the pie. Another 11.49% went to support veterans receiving longterm care. The remaining 3.11% of that dollar was spent on education of health care professionals charged with caring for veterans.

VA and Due Process: The VA recently reminded its employees in the Department of Veterans Benefits of the fundamental importance of ensuring that procedural due process is provided each veteran claimant.

Making PL 99-272 Work: Much has been written about the so-called means test. This report is on one aspect of the means test law, PL 99-272. The non-service connected veteran whose attributable income does not exceed \$15,000, if the veteran has no dependents, and \$18,000 if the veteran has one dependent, plus \$1,000 for each additional dependent, is greatly affected.

If he or she falls within those income limits, the veteran is entitled to VA inpatient hospital care. When that veteran approaches the VA and completes a VA form, entitled "Financial Worksheet," the results of which do not exceed the income limitations noted, the veteran is given a Category A classification. It was the intent of Congress that non-service connected veterans classified as Category A are mandated to receive inpatient VA care. The VFW intends to see that this mandate is carried out. To do that, however, the VFW needs to know of those turned away.

The VFW Service Officer network already has been alerted to provide that information. As a general rule, should a veteran in that predicament come to your attention the Department Service Officer should be alerted. VFW National Service would like to get from him or you a brief note with the name of the veteran, the veteran's VA claim number and/or Social Security number, confirmation that the veteran was classified in Category A by the VA, the name of the VAMC unable to provide treatment, the date of application for treatment and the reason given for the denial, and what treatment was eventually received from non-VA sources and at what cost to the veteran.

The VFW can then bring this material to the attention of both VA and Congress. At the outset, it was recognized that some fine tuning would be necessary to ensure that the safety net for the less fortunate among non-service connected veterans was fully in place. The VFW needs to know whether any are slipping through that net.

SECURITY

Shultz Analyzes Reykjavik: In an objective and comprehensive analysis of the Reykjavik super power meeting, Secretary of State George Shultz has pointed out that some progress was made in changing super power views on arms control but little in regional or human rights.

"So what did we accomplish at Reykjavik? We got agreement on the outlines of a 50% reduction in strategic offensive nuclear weapons and reduction to equal ceilings of 100 warheads on intermediate-range missiles. The latter figure would mean that more than 90% of the SS-20s now targeted on our friends and allies in Europe and Asia would be eliminated.

"On defense and space, there was considerable movement on both sides. Important differences were clarified. But there was no closure. The proposal made by the President in Reykjavik, however, is now on the negotiating table in Geneva and is being discussed by our delegation there.

"Obviously, there is still a long way to go. But at Reykjavik we reached agreement on what might be the first steps toward a more secure world at lower levels of nuclear arms. We went on to discuss the possible next steps.

"Not bad for two days' work. But, of course, those two productive days drew on the immense amount of preparatory effort that preceded them.

"And that wasn't all. Arms control was only one topic of discussion at Reykjavik. The President brought up the full breadth of our concerns. He cited chapter and verse on the question of Soviet human rights violations. The two leaders reviewed regional conflicts, and the President stated our firm opposition to aggression and subversion by the Soviet Union or its proxies in Afghanistan, Angola, Central America and Indochina.

"At the same time, the two sides also explored an expansion of bilateral U.S.-Soviet programs involving greater people-to-people contact and cooperation in such areas of concrete interest to the United States as search and rescue and cooperation in space. And I might say, over the last couple of days we've had some very productive negotiations with the Soviets in Washington, and I think we have — we haven't signed it — but basically, we have the essence of an agreement on civilian space cooperation and the number of projects identified. I consider that a real plus.

"As you can see, we have entered a new stage in our dialogue with the Soviet Union. It has the potential to be exceptionally productive. But it's also a period in which conventional wisdom is being questioned. As we advance on old problems, we will face new issues and new challenges."

3 Posts, 1 District Honored

Three Posts and one District have won awards for community activities.

The National Silver Award of Excellence went to Post 5928 and its Auxiliary, of Camden, S.C., for erecting a monument in Forest Lawn Memorial Park to 27 men from Kershaw County who were killed in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

District 4, centered in Livonia, Mich., received the National Bronze Award of Merit for presenting drug abuse seminars in area schools in connection with the VFW drug abuse program.

Post 3157 and its Auxiliary, of Electric City, Wash., won the National Bronze Award of Merit for its work in displaying U.S. Flags on patriotic holidays. The Flags had been draped over veterans' caskets and were donated by veterans' next-of-kin.

Post 4248 and its Auxiliary, of Portland, Ore., were honored for installing tiny apertures in the front doors of senior citizens' homes to enable them to see visitors before admitting them.

Announcing the awards, Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab said each of the Posts and Auxiliaries and the District exemplified the VFW's motto, "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living," in carrying out their projects.

MDs Okay, Says VA

The VA's Office of Inspector General has found that of approximately 47,000 physicians working for the VA as of June 30, 1985, only 93 had ever had licensing irregularities of any sort.

By comparison, the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) reported 8,300 physicians nationwide with actions taken against their licenses as of June, 1985.

The 93 names that were matched with disciplinary data maintained by the FSMB, the American Medical

Association and the California State Board of Medical Quality Assurance were referred by the Office of Inspector General to VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery for review.

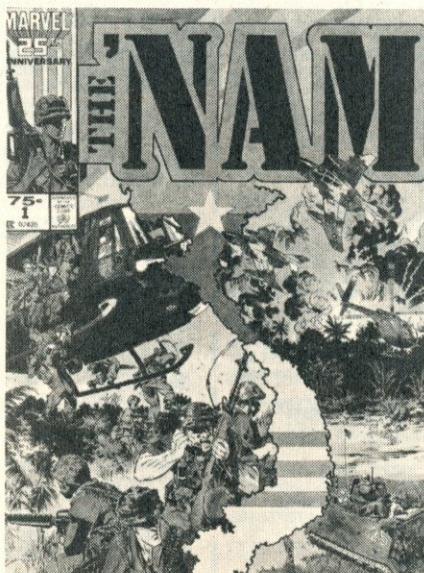
A special licensing committee determined that of these 93 matches, 31 were no longer employed by VA. Appointments of four physicians were cancelled or terminated.

Of the remaining 58 cases, 47 were determined to have valid licenses, were legally appointed and their VA work histories were satisfactory.

Eleven cases were still under review by the Department of Medicine and Surgery at the time the final audit report was completed.

Since the inspector general's audit was conducted, VA has taken steps to improve hiring and credentialing procedures as well as other measures to ensure that quality care continues to be provided to veterans.

A licensing review of all VA physicians will be conducted through FSMB every two years starting in the summer of 1987.

Vietnam War Comic Book

There was nothing laughable about the Vietnam War, but there is little

amusing in comic books nowadays either, so it may be appropriate that one of the latest of this genre to hit the stands is entitled "The 'Nam."

The monthly series began with the December issue and chronicles the experiences of several young members of the 23rd Mechanized Infantry as they leave home to fight in Vietnam.

Writer of the series, Doug Murray, was a radar specialist who served two tours in Vietnam. Currently, he is a computer operations manager with Chase Manhattan.

Publisher is the Marvel Comics Group.

Pearl Harbor Survivors

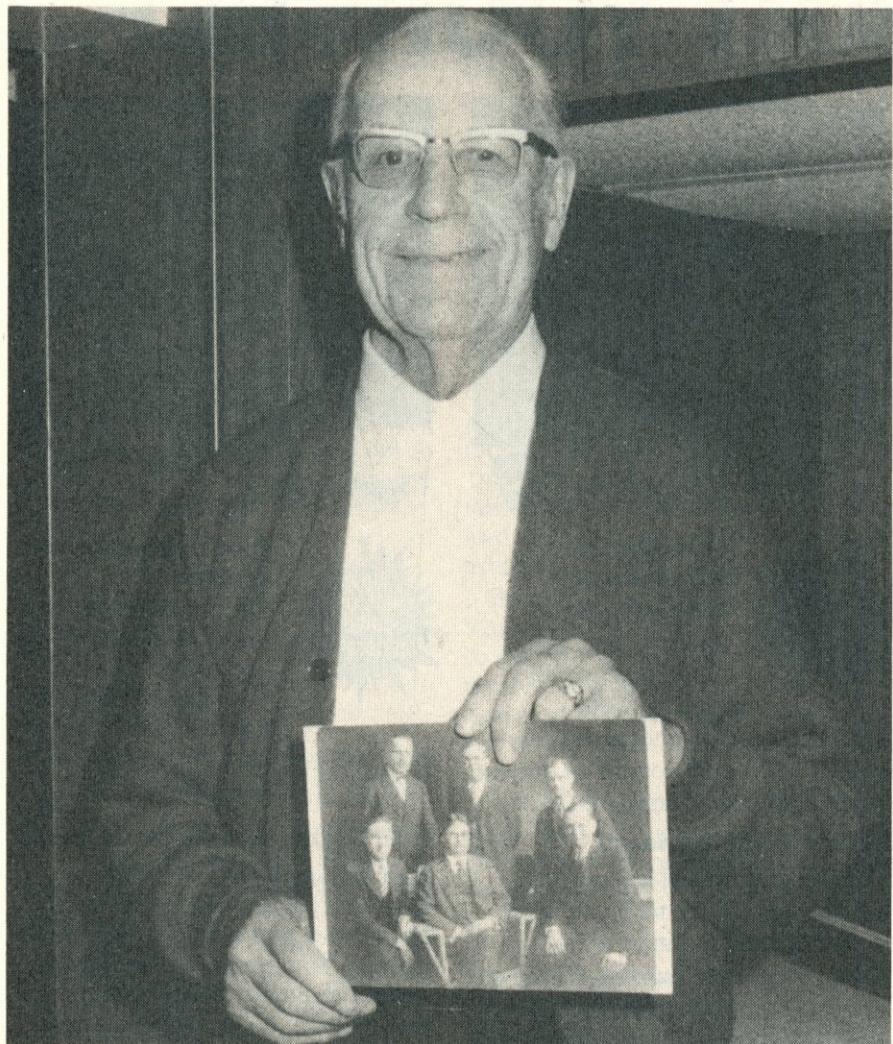
President Reagan has signed a bill granting a federal charter to the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. It is now PL 99-199. PHSA is now seeking to have Dec. 7 of each year declared a National Day of Remembrance by Congress. The Air Force secretary has accepted a proposal from the PHSA to erect a PHSA Memorial Wall at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., to honor the 2,403 Americans who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. Further information about the memorial may be obtained from Wallace J. Kampney, treasurer of the PHSA Memorial Wall Fund, P.O. Box 6335, Syracuse, N.Y. 13217.

D-Day Collection

The director of the Eisenhower Center at the University of New Orleans, Stephen E. Ambrose, has announced a project to collect oral histories from D-Day participants to be housed in the university archives and made available to scholars.

Ambrose, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's biographer, says, "There are so many untold stories from that day and so many of those who can tell them are not going to be around

continued on page 18



George Dobben, present at the National Home's conception 61 years ago, holds a photograph of that historic meeting. Dobben is on the left in the back row. Corey Spencer, who donated the land, is front row center.

Annual Meeting

National VFW and Ladies Auxiliary dignitaries, along with VFW National Home Life Members, gathered in Eaton Rapids, Mich., on Oct. 25 for the Home's annual meeting.

Quartermaster Gen. Herbert Irwin, Ladies Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Joan Katkus (representing President Rosemary Mazer), and Secretary-Treasurer Glenn Grossman also attended the Board of Trustees meetings that convened two days prior to the annual meeting and for several hours following it.

Ballot results, which included a major change in the Home's articles

of incorporation and the election of two trustees, were certified.

The articles of incorporation were amended to add the Adjutant General, Quartermaster General and National Secretary-Treasurer to the Board of Trustees as full voting members. The change increases Board membership to 17. Others on the Board include the Commander-in-Chief, Ladies Auxiliary National President, and 12 district representatives elected for six-year terms.

"I feel the addition of representatives from our parent organizations will benefit communication between

us," said Board President Florence Taylor. "We have already made strides in that direction. I feel very positive about where we're going on the Board."

She also noted that a committee appointed by Commander-in-Chief Norman Staab is another step forward.

Arthur Burress of Colorado, chairman of the committee explained its purpose. "This committee was formed to advise the Commander-in-Chief on improving communication between the National Home and the field."

Along with Herb Irwin and Glenn Grossman, also installed were President Paul M. Savage of Michigan and Vice President Ronald Tyler of Pennsylvania. William Dorsey of Missouri replaces Robert Nickerson of Louisiana as representative of National Home District 6 (Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri). Robert Speake of Texas is the new 10th District Trustee (Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico), as Guy Taylor of Oklahoma retires. Other officers installed were Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Epling and Attorney George Cholack. Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute, who was absent, will be installed at a future Board meeting.

Reports from National Home Executive Director Dr. Theodore Wilson and Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Epling indicated a clean bill of health for the program, in spite of some financial setbacks. Positive feedback on campus-based seminars on the Home's operation, an improved relationship with VFW National Headquarters, and a Michigan Department of Social Services report lauding the Home as "effective raising kids" was relayed to assembled Life Members by Dr. Wilson. Mr. Epling reported the auditors had a "clean opinion" of the Home's finances, and that the Life Membership program has grown — 7,210 new Life Members in the last year.

continued on page 18

NOW HEAR THIS

continued from page 14

forever. The time to collect these stories is now."

"We know pretty much what the top brass did; what we need is the story of the private at Omaha Beach, the sailor on the LST, the fighter pilot overhead, the code-breaker back in England, the factory worker in New Orleans who built the landing craft," he says.

Ambrose urges anyone who played any role whatsoever in D-Day to write him at the University of New Orleans. He will return a set of detailed instructions on how to prepare an oral history on a tape recorder. A typewritten transcript will then be made and become part of the permanent collection. Ambrose plans to publish the material in book form for the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

His address is University of New Orleans, Lakefront, New Orleans, La. 70148. Telephone number is 504-286-7110.

New Shoe Service

A new service, the One Shoe Crew, assists people to find partners to share the cost of shoes. Started by a

disabled nurse, Georgia Hehr, it matches shoe sizes with potential shoe partners.

No cost is made to register for the service. Clients send in their names, addresses, telephone numbers and shoe sizes. When a match is made, a small charge is made (which is saved with the first exchange of shoes), to cover operating expenses. After receiving the name and telephone number only of a potential partner (for security reasons), the responsibility for agreeing to share expenses and shoes rests with the partners.

Those who can benefit from this service include persons wearing a brace on one foot, amputees, persons with different sized feet and anyone with a one-sided foot problem who still wears one regular shoe.

To register or obtain further information, write the One Shoe Crew, 86 Clavela Avenue, Sacramento, Calif. 95828.

Vets' Games Downunder

Five-thousand veterans will be gathering in Australia's garden city of Melbourne to compete in the Sev-

enth World Veterans' Games, Nov. 28 through Dec. 6, 1987.

Home of the 1956 Olympics, Melbourne is well equipped to manage what is called the "biggest and friendliest athletic meeting ever held."

Events will include numerous track and field meets such as races from 100m through 1500m, long and high jumps, shot put, discuss and javelin throws; 5 km walks; 10 km and cross country runs; relays and pentathlons. Categories, starting with women from 35 and men from 40, will be defined by five-year increments.

Track and field events will be held in Melbourne's Olympic Park, warm-up area for the 1956 Olympics. Cross country events will take place amidst gum trees in Royal Park, known as Camp Pell in World War II.

With more than 3,000 applications received so far, entries must be received by Aug. 31, 1987.

For further information or entry into the games, contact Al Sheahen, National Masters News, PO Box 2372, Van Nuys, Calif. 91404 or telephone (818) 785-1895.

NATIONAL HOME

continued from page 16

A highlight of the annual meeting was the introduction of George Dobben, who was present when Corey Spencer donated property to the Veterans of Foreign Wars which today is the VFW National Home. Mr. Dobben, who still lives in Jackson, Mich., was one of four men who traveled throughout the United States spreading the first words about this Home for widows and orphans to the VFW membership. He continues to support the Home financially and retains a keen interest in its programs. He was greeted by the Board and Life Members in attendance with a standing ovation.

Seminars for 1987

The Board of Trustees has scheduled three VFW National Home seminars in the spring and four in the fall, according to Dr. Theodore H. Wilson, executive director.

The two-day seminars, held on the campus of the National Home, near Eaton Rapids, Mich., cost \$50 for each participant. Overnight lodging, meals during the seminar, materials and shuttle service from the Lansing Airport are provided.

"The seminars have left those who attended with a new insight into our facility and programs," said Dr. Wilson. "I'm excited at the prospect of

seven next year and the potential they have for increasing knowledge and understanding of our Home."

The seminars include on-site tours and ample time to visit with National Home residents as well as presentations from home life, finance and public relations staff.

Dates are Feb. 20-21, March 13-14, April 8-9, Aug. 28-29, Sept. 11-12, Oct. 20-21 and Nov. 20-21.

To register, write Sharon Hoover, VFW National Home, Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827-9799 or telephone her at (517) 663-1521. ■

VFW PRIORITY GOALS

1986-87

LEGISLATIVE

VA Budget

Approval by the President and Congress of adequate VA funding to maintain the integrity of its hospital and medical care system and programs administered by the VA Department of Veterans Benefits, including compensation, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and pension programs. The VFW opposes centralization of the VA Regional Office system.

Naming VA Administrator To President's Cabinet

Elevation of the VA to an Executive Department and designation of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs as a member of the President's cabinet.

VA Health Care

No undermining of present VA health care system. Equipping it to prepare properly for an ever-increasing patient load generated by the rapidly aging veteran population.

Protection From Sequestration

Prevailing on Congress to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to exempt the VA and veterans' programs from reduction pursuant to a sequestration order.

COLA

Full cost-of-living adjustment for all VA compensation recipients as well as all federal and military retirees.

VA Construction Program

Adequate funding for the VA construction program to provide replacement and modernization of aging VA facilities.

Burial Benefits

Increased burial plot allowance by the VA to all veterans and repeal of the VA's policy of exclusive use of flat grave markers.

Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA)

Legislative initiatives to provide preferential services to veterans in all programs authorized by JTPA; an increase in funds for veterans' employment programs; establishment of monitoring to determine veterans' participation in all JTPA programs; appointment of a qualified VFW member to each State Job Training Coordinating Council and Private Industry Council.

Veterans' Preference

No erosion or elimination of veterans' preference; all private employers and public sector agencies to abide by and enforce veterans' preference.

The Employment Service

Prevention of any and all attempts to weaken or destroy the vital U.S. Employment Service; of any cuts in funding or staff that will adversely impact on employment services to veterans; and of implementation of any program that will not provide priority of services to veterans.

Federal Government Employment And Job Advancement Opportunities

No weakening or eliminating of special appointment authorities such as the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA), the Noncompetitive Appointing Authority for 30% or more disabled veterans and the Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Program (DVAAP), as well as the Work-Study Program.

SECURITY

National Defense

A national defense fully capable of deterring growing threats to U.S. security and peace. VFW supports strategic, conventional and counter-terrorist programs to keep pace with these threats.

A strong national defense representing the foundation for a united, bipartisan foreign policy that can respond to global challenges to America's peace and freedom.

The VFW opposes Communism and recognizes its serious threat to freedom everywhere.

Central America

Bipartisan support for a Central American policy to deal with Communist intrusion into the region.

A firm policy of aid and assistance to the region's

In early fall each year, chairmen and vice chairmen of the National Legislative and the National Security Committees meet in Washington, D.C., to advise the new Commander-in-Chief on an agenda of action for the coming year. Based on the resolutions passed by Convention delegates in late summer, the results of their deliberations become VFW's Priority Goals.

democratic countries and movements to force Communism's retreat and to deal with their economic problems.

Maintenance by the Administration and Congress of economic and diplomatic pressure on Cuba as instigator and supplier of Marxist revolutionaries in Central and South America and continued close surveillance of Cuban activities.

Armed Forces

(Active, Reserve, National Guard)

Reinstatement of military service incentives and entitlements since erosion in pay, medical care and retirement benefits reduces Armed Forces' ability to recruit and retain professionals and damages morale and esprit de corps.

Absentee ballot reform to enable U.S. service personnel overseas to vote in American elections.

POW/MIA

Resolution of status of U.S. prisoners and missing in action in Southeast Asia.

Efforts by U.S. government to keep issue one of highest priority. VFW steadfastly supports President's efforts and those of Congress to resolve this important issue.

Establishment of independent Presidential commission to review the live POW issue and resourcing, manning and direction of government agencies involved.

Upgrading of Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii.

Strategic Defense Research

Continued Strategic Defense research, as it may offer a means of defending U.S. and allies from ballistic missile attack, prevent a possible Soviet breakthrough in anti-missile defense and help maintain U.S. lead in space-related technologies.

Companion studies into air defense requirements to protect U.S. from bomber and cruise missile threats, the nation's civil defense needs and implications of a shift from deterrence to defense.

Reduction of nuclear weapons to equal, balanced and verifiable limits and continued modernization of the

strategic arsenal, especially MX and Midgetman missiles.

Prevention of unilateral reductions or moratoriums, including testing, that would jeopardize U.S. strategic or defensive forces.

An arms control agreement that would enhance U.S. security and security interests and reduce threat of nuclear conflict.

Terrorism

A full range of measures to deter, guard against and combat terrorist acts and illegal drug traffic that supports terrorism or against countries that continue to support terrorism.

Reminder to countries unwilling to support or assist U.S. counter-terrorist efforts: "There are no neutrals in the war against terrorists."

Pacific

Economic aid and other assistance to Philippines be conditioned on negotiations to extend current leases on U.S. bases there since New Zealand's failure to live up to the ANZUS Treaty has put condition of the Mutual Assistance Treaty with Philippines in doubt.

Reestablishment of full diplomatic and military relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Immediate sale to Republic of China on Taiwan of advanced aircraft weapons and technology.

Increased military and economic assistance to the Republic of Korea and a vigorous U.S. response should North Korean belligerence lead to military or political aggression.

NATO

Increased contributions by NATO member nations to the common defense.

Continued deployment of adequate U.S. forces under NATO and development of unconventional weapons and munitions to assure continued deterrence.

Reaffirmation of VFW support for NATO.



This 101st Airborne Division soldier checks ships passing through the Strait of Tiran off the coast of the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula.

FORGOTTEN FRONTS

Today, as never before, American servicemen play crucial peacekeeping roles throughout the world. Well over a half million U.S. uniformed personnel serve abroad, half of them in Europe alone. Combat units defend the very frontiers of freedom, acting as "trip wires" along iron, bamboo and jungle curtains. Yet duty in these danger zones goes largely unheralded.

Troops overseas are seldom spotlighted unless tragedy strikes. At a Camp Lejeune memorial service in 1984 for Marines killed in Lebanon, President Reagan asked: "Where do we find men like this? From farms and villages, towns and cities across the nation . . . We commit our resources and risk the lives of those in our armed forces to rescue others from bloodshed and

turmoil and to prevent humankind from drowning in a sea of tyranny."

Let's focus on some of the front-line units committed to global freedom.

THE SINAI

• Multinational Force and Observers

Few Americans were aware of the Sinai mission before the deaths of 256 paratroopers and crew members in a civilian airline crash in December, 1985. That made headline news. Wrote one chronicler, "The tragedy, in its own way, added a chapter as noble as the 101st's part in the Normandy invasion. It was their second longest day."

U.S. troops arrived in the parched wastes of the 300-mile demilitarized border between Egypt and Israel in

April, 1982, as part of the 11-nation Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). Maintaining peace in this hostile and isolated mountainous desert combines mind-numbing monotony with extreme physical exertion. Temperatures reach 120° F and sandstorms are brutal. The ancient Sinai Peninsula has served as an invasion route for thousands of years.

Battalions of the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions rotate duty every six months. Ten U.S. infantry battalions have seen Sinai service to date. Of the 2,600-man MFO, approximately 800 are Americans at any given time. The U.S. Task Force mans 10 observation posts, four checkpoints, one radio relay station and two sector control sites to observe, report and verify truce violations. Paratroopers patrol a 140-mile-long, 40-mile-wide-zone in a 1,500-square-mile strip of the southeastern Sinai.



Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division board helicopters to check points and observation points in the Sinai Desert. Many of the camps can be reached only by air. (U.S. Army Photo)

Troops travel this moonscape for days without catching a glimpse of life. Each rifle company spends 30 days in the field and two weeks at a base camp as part of the routine. At some remote outposts, rations must be flown in by helicopter. Squads that occupy the post overlooking the Strait of Tiran are there for 22 days at a stretch. Constructive time consumption is a challenge under such circumstances.

Potential hazards are not in short supply. Dehydration and heatstroke are ever-present problems. GIs have suffered serious injuries from explosives in old mine fields, and others have lost their lives on the twisting roads. In December, 1983, two soldiers were wounded by Moslem gunmen. Terrorists remain a real threat to the lightly-armed "sandmen."

Tedium can be even more trying. "All of a sudden, you're taken from an elite combat unit and put in a constabulary role in the middle of the desert," said Maj. Thomas B. Giboney, executive officer of the battalion task force based at Sharm el Sheik. Giboney commands the 2nd Battalion, 504th Airborne Infantry of the 82nd Airborne Division, the current police force on duty. The 82nd earned national acclaim during the liberation of Grenada.

The Screaming Eagles, the 82nd's sister unit in the Sinai, suffered 20,000 casualties during its seven years in Vietnam and was struck again in 1985. When Maj. Gen. William Lee paid tribute to the dead of the 101st's 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry and the 163rd Aviation Company, he was speaking to all who have done time in the volatile Middle East: "They fulfilled an important peacekeeping mission in lonely outposts of the Sinai. They served with distinction and honor."

PANAMA • U.S. Southern Command

Headquartered at the "crossroads of the world" in Panama is the U.S. Southern Command. Among the 9,350 U.S. personnel stationed in the Panama Canal Area is the 193rd Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group. In addition to canal security, SouthCom coordinates all U.S. military operations in Latin America. This includes conducting recon flights over Salvadoran guerrilla camps, maneuvers in Honduras, jungle warfare courses at the Jungle Operations Training Center and relief efforts.

Similar in size to South Carolina, Panama supports tropical rain forests, mangrove swamps and steep mountains interspersed with gullies, crevices and unfordable water barriers. Heat up to 110° F and high humidity are stifling. Debilitating heat-related conditions and tropical ulcers are constant companions in the field. The triple-canopy jungle is infested with an array of creatures: mosquitoes that carry four types of disease; vampire bats; poisonous caterpillars; scorpions; parasitic and stinging insects, and venomous snakes, including the bushmaster and fer-de-lance. The golden frog carries a biotoxin 200 times more deadly than strychnine. Even the elusive jaguar haunts the green hell training area of Fort Sherman.

Undeterred, Task Force Bayonet lives up to its motto, "The Cutting Edge." Activated in 1962 at Fort Kobbe, Panama, the 193rd was created "as a mobile force for swift intervention in case of trouble in Latin America." Eighteen months later the unit found itself on riot control duty in the Zone. Panamanian snipers and rioters killed three GIs and wounded 85. Army sharpshooters quickly silenced those responsible.

Today, the brigade consists of two infantry battalions (1st and 2nd of the 187th Infantry), B Battery, 22nd Field Artillery, and support units such as the 518th Engineer Company. Headquarters is located at Fort Clayton along the "big ditch," the Panama Canal.

As Lt. Col. George Utter said, "Our primary mission is to defend the Panama Canal... We are where we would fight and be committed." He commands the 2nd Battalion of the 187th Infantry. Most daily functions, though, are symbolic tactical training, static defense and patrolling. But the focus is shifting from the 50-mile-long canal to combined operations with the Panamanians.

U.S. security responsibility ends in the year 2000 when complete control of the canal will be relinquished.

President Reagan has underscored the waterway's importance. "Using Nicaragua as a base," he said, "the Soviets and the Cubans can become the dominant power in the crucial corridor between North and South America. Established here, they will be in a position to threaten the Panama Canal, interdict our vital Caribbean sea lanes and ultimately move against Mexico."

Nicaragua fields the largest and best-trained force in Central America. Only defenseless Costa Rica stands between the Marxists and Panama. Costa Rica already has protested the "repeated violation of the national sovereignty and the integrity of our territory by the Sandinista military forces." This peaceful nation is subjected to constant incursions, some 123 at last count.

Besides defending America's southern flank, the 193rd engages in relief efforts throughout the region. Medical teams and logistical units, for example, were deployed to Nicaragua in late 1979 to assist victims of severe flooding. In November, 1985, 112 men of the 210th Combat Aviation Company helped alleviate the devastation of a volcano that claimed 23,000 lives in Colombia. Operations were conducted in an area frequented by the Colombian M-19 guerrilla group. Guerrillas had recently captured two towns within 100 miles of where GIs were working. Since 1972, SouthCom has responded to more than 80 calls for humanitarian aid.

WEST GERMANY • North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Across the Atlantic in Europe, U.S. soldiers maintain a vigil along the fence system separating West and East Germany. "Barber poles" mark the 856-mile border referred to as the "trace." A barrier is buried two feet below ground and stretches ten feet above ground. Directional anti-personnel mines are mounted on the fence in addition to machine guns triggered by an electronic eye. Parallel to this structure is a 10-meter-wide detection strip bordered by an anti-vehicular ditch.

Said a GI, "It's hard to imagine the dreadfulness of this until you see it." Added another, "I don't think people realize there is a fence along the entire border or that there are people dying to get across it." U.S. patrols have watched helplessly as escaping East Germans were gunned down by Communist border guards. Some 110 Germans have died on this grotesque enclosure. Additionally, 74 have been killed at the Berlin Wall, as they attempted to reach West Berlin.

The U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is assigned a 231-mile-long sector of the border. Headquartered in Fulda, the regiment's three cavalry squadrons of three troops each are deployed in the states of Hesse and Bavaria. As the most forward American unit on the

Iron Curtain, the 11th is responsible for defending the Fulda Gap, the main invasion route in the 7th Army area.

The unit is well suited to the mission. Organized in 1900, the Blackhorse Regiment served in several wars and patrolled the Czechoslovak border for seven years before being sent to Asia. During its five-year tour in Vietnam, the 11th earned 11 campaign streamers and



The Berlin Brigade's Combat Support Co., 4th Battalion of the 6th Infantry, checks on activity on the Communist side of the Berlin Wall. (U.S. Army Photo)

two Valorous Unit Awards while sustaining 635 killed in action and 5,521 wounded in battle. Regimental hardware there included 296 armored personnel carriers, 51 tanks, nine flamethrower vehicles, 18 howitzers and 18 helicopters.

Since its arrival in Germany in May, 1972, the unit has provided surveillance and security. Dawn-to-dusk rounds are conducted by squads inserted by helicopter or transported in trucks. Platoons rotate duty at four observation posts every few weeks. A member of the Regimental Scout Section summed up the Blackhorse's mission: "We are here as the last trip wire in the information reporting network."

GIs remain confident despite the omnipresent Warsaw Pact forces. Maj. James Steele once reassured a reporter, "This is where the action is. We all know exactly what to do if things blow up." Such determination is echoed by other soldiers. An enlisted man proudly proclaimed, "We have a mission, a real one. We're here to defend the frontier of freedom."

SOUTH KOREA • United Nations Command

Halfway around the globe in strategic northeast Asia a similar chore is charged to American servicemen. One writer correctly concluded that "Korea is infantry country — for infantry with very strong legs. Its dominant features are very steep hills forming one ridgeline after another." At the waist of the peninsula, North and South Korea are divided by the 38th parallel, a no-man's land marked by minefields and concertina wire

Forgotten Frays Costly for Americans

On the frontiers of freedom, the forgotten frays have cost nearly 500 American lives and wounds to nearly 900 since 1949 when the Chinese Civil War ended in a victory for the Communists.

These casualties have been inflicted from Korea to Grenada and most recently in the Libyan air-strikes last April that took two American lives.

Rioting over the Panama Canal in 1964 resulted in the deaths of four Americans and the wounding of 85 more out of some 1,000 American troops involved.

The 21,500 Americans engaged in the Dominican Republic in 1965 and 1966 suffered 28 dead and 174 wounded.

From 1966 to 1969 on the Korean DMZ, 58 Americans were killed, while 131 were wounded, and one sailor on the Pueblo was killed when the ship was seized by the North Koreans in 1968.

In other incidents in Korea, 31 aboard a reconnaissance plane were



A Marine prepares to leave Beirut after turning the port over to Lebanese military units. (U.S. Marine Corps Photo)

lost when their aircraft was shot down over the Sea of Japan in April, 1969; a soldier was killed on the DMZ in November, 1974; three members of a helicopter crew died when their chopper was shot down on the DMZ in July, 1977, and two officers were murdered in 1976 on the DMZ.

When the USS Liberty was sunk by Israeli forces in the Six Day War, 34 Americans were killed and 171 wounded.

The May, 1975, Mayaguez incident

cost 18 American lives and 50 wounded, and another 23 airmen were killed in a helicopter crash as they were going to the rescue site.

Nineteen were killed and 115 wounded in the Grenada operation in October, 1983.

In terms of American casualties, the highest price was paid for the peacekeeping effort in Lebanon where 267 Americans were killed and 125 wounded.

From 1979 to 1986, terrorist attacks have taken the lives of 20 uniformed Americans in Pakistan, Lebanon, El Salvador and various European locations. ■

About the Author:

A petroleum scout in Houston, Kolb, who has written extensively on military subjects, served with the 4th Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne Division during the Vietnam War and served as the Houston chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program from 1981-84.

and scarred by three years of war. Soldiers of an earlier era called this inhospitable environment "the land that God forgot."

President Reagan's 1983 visit centered some long overdue attention on the men stationed on the DMZ or "Z." The commander-in-chief told his troops: "We know about the cold windswept nights that leave your body aching from head to foot . . . And we know about the danger. You're facing a heavily armed, unpredictable enemy with no regard for human life."

North Korea's army numbers 880,000, a significant percentage of them concentrated on the DMZ — backed by a reserve of five million men. Observed one U.S. officer, "They're well-equipped, fanatical in their approach and one of the best-trained commando forces in the world." The Communist North has a record of repeated infiltration by land and sea, sabotage, espionage, provocation and airspace violation. Armed teams are sent south for reconnaissance, subversion and to organize potential guerrilla networks. Hundreds of storage tunnels and a score of attack tunnels have been discovered.

The Cold War in Asia has often turned hot in Korea. During the "twilight war" between 1966 and 1969, 50 U.S. soldiers were killed and 131 were wounded in

firefights. In the 1970s, an additional half dozen Americans were killed in Communist-provoked incidents. The most recent exchange of gunfire occurred in November, 1984, when North Koreans pursued a defecting Russian across the line in Panmunjom. Several South Koreans were killed and a U.S. soldier was wounded.

Up front in Korea is the famed U.S. 2nd Infantry Division. Formed in France in 1917, the Indianhead Division for years claimed regiments with long histories. The 9th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the Manchus for its service in the 1900 Boxer Rebellion, for example, is an old Asia hand. Composed of the 9th, 23rd and 38th Infantry Regiments, the division participated in all ten named campaigns of the Korean War, 1950-53. The 2nd lost 7,094 killed and 16,575 wounded — over 25% of total Army combat deaths in the war, following WWII action in five ETO campaigns.

After several stateside stints, the unit returned to Korea in 1965 where it has remained ever since. Today, some 14,000 personnel are located at 17 camps throughout the peninsula. Its three combat brigades consist of eight maneuver battalions: three infantry, two mechanized infantry, two armor and an air cavalry squadron. Division artillery has the distinction of operating

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FORGOTTEN FRONTS

continued from page 25

the only active fire base in this nation's international defense network.

To help deter North Korean aggression, U.S. forward units are stationed astride the main highway running south from Panmunjom to Seoul, the principle invasion route known as the Western Corridor. The 2nd is assigned its own sector of the 150-mile-wide by 2½-mile-deep demilitarized zone. A military demarcation line is designated with 1,090 yellow markers. Combat outfits occupy four major camps, 27 sites, including radar installations, and six guard posts. One battalion is permanently positioned north of the Imjin River at Camp Greaves, making it the most forward deployed rifle battalion in the U.S. Army.

Battalions are rotated to Warrior Base for duty as DMZ MPs. This entails patrolling, observation and service as quick reaction forces. Guard posts are Collier and Ouellette. The last is only 50 yards from the border. They provide the closest vantage points. Posts are manned by rifle platoons, usually combined U.S.-South Korean teams totalling 50 men. Tough and realistic training prepares the men for the job ahead.

Interdicting intruders means smearing on face-blackening and snapping live ammo into M-16s. Said one GI, "It's a challenge to go out there just knowing you may come in contact with North Koreans." According to Maj. Cliff Bernath, "They collect intelligence, provide early warning, and kill the enemy if he comes through. Reconnaissance and ambush patrols are conducted every day and every night. It's deadly serious business."

Proximity to your adversary makes the routine meaningful. As Lt. Col. Jeffrey Wite, commander of the 1st Battalion, 31st Infantry, put it: "This is as close as they will get short of another war." Morale and esprit de corps are high in the 2nd, despite the tedium and tension of a 12-month tour.

In this "last best place to soldier," the watchword is *ubi mu hwan*, a

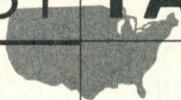


Since the truce ending Korean War fighting was signed in 1953, Americans have been on guard in Korea, patrolling the DMZ to help keep the fragile peace. (U.S. Army Photo)

Korean proverb meaning "fully prepared, no misfortune." True to its motto, the 2nd Infantry Division remains "Second to None." Indian-head warriors keep the Communist North at bay. As SP/4 Michael Brown recently wrote, "They walk a beat in one of the toughest parts of the world — and keep it free."

The same can be said of U.S. servicemen along all the far-flung fronts of America's defense perimeter. As a nation, Americans cannot afford to forget the men whose lives are placed at risk in some of the most hostile spots on earth. ■

U.S. A TERRORIST **TARGET**



By James K. Anderson

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PROTECT AMERICANS FROM ATTACKS BY POLITICAL TERRORISTS?

Three experts on terrorism, one a former hostage in Iran, were pessimistic about the prospects of the United States remaining secure against violent attacks that have rocked the rest of the world.

The three who expressed their views before the Kansas City International Relations Council recently were Moorhead Kennedy, who was held with other Americans in the U.S. embassy in Tehran; Terrell E. Arnold, former director of the State Department's Office for Combating Terrorism, and Col. Itamar Chizik, of the Israeli Army, and currently studying at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

American concerns have been heightened by threats made by terrorists whose bombs rocked Paris in mid-September, as well as threats made against this country by Abu Nidal, ringleader of the group that hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro.

Kennedy said he did not know how much longer the United States could escape much of the violence that has characterized international terrorism.

"We are having difficulty controlling the importation of drugs, and it is difficult to keep out human beings," Kennedy said.

"The time will come when small hit groups will enter the country," he continued. "America is vulnerable."

One reason for this vulnerability, he said, is that many in the Middle East and Mediterranean regions closely resemble Hispanics and could be disguised as Latin Americans.

So far the U.S. has been virtually free of terrorist incidents, Arnold said, because of the country's effective law enforcement agencies and the ease with which terrorists can kill Americans outside its borders since so many live and travel abroad.

"Also the United States is a complicated society that has found non-violent solutions to its own problems," he said. "What I quarrel with is the number of Cassandras. We are not immediately threatened."

Chizik said that "Israel has paid a lot to protect its borders, and so far we have succeeded because we do not let any terrorist live in peace. We make his life terrible. Knowing that they cannot stay in one place very long makes it very difficult for them to operate.

"To solve the problem, it is my private opinion, that all the democracies have to be united against terrorism, for a terrorist is a high degree of a criminal," he suggested.

"But the best way to prevent terrorists from entering the country is to keep them from the border," he said.

Who are the terrorists and what motivates them?

Kennedy, now executive director of the Council for International Understanding, said that, based on his experience as a hostage from November, 1979 to January, 1981, they "are young people; the oldest in Tehran was 29 to 30; they are willing to die."

"I saw them moving up to the

embassy with rapture on their faces," he said. "Some told me they wished the Marines had fired on them because they would become martyrs.

"The Islamic way of death is potent propaganda."

Kennedy said there is a great deal of difference among terrorists.

In their combination of nationalism and religion, he said, terrorists resemble American anti-colonialists of 1776.

But the ones who held him and

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
"SOME TOLD ME THEY
[REDACTED]
WISHED THE MARINES HAD
[REDACTED]
FIRED ON THEM BECAUSE THEY
[REDACTED]
WOULD BECOME MARTYRS."
[REDACTED]

the other Americans in Tehran, Kennedy continued, "were more religious than nationalist, but it is hard to distinguish between the two. Others in the Middle East are more nationalist than religious."

Kennedy said that because of the strength and impact of the United States, this country is regarded as a colonial country, and Israel is seen as the West's last outpost in the region.

In the Middle East, there is a sense of identity and a need to be recognized, Kennedy continued.

He recalled that he was on a satellite television interview with the man who is now Iran's deputy minister for terrorism. The Iranian complained that Americans did not know where Iran was until after the hos-

tages were taken.

"He said Iran is an Eastern, not Western country, and Iranians have different values. They hate and resent the United States but like Americans. He said they do not want our values, but they do want the U.S. to get out of their country and out of their region.

"I asked what if the Russians came, and he replied that 'you will come to our aid because you need us.' Of course, he was wrong because they need us, not the other way around."

Kennedy said he found in the Iranians a blend of gentleness and violence, but the Iranians were most resentful of President Carter's embrace of the later-deposed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

Others in the Middle East, like Abu Nidal, "are sadists."

Kennedy said the West should not negotiate unacceptable demands made by terrorists but attempt to discover what they will settle for. "President Carter, for example, sent word that if anything happened to us, there would be an immediate military response," Kennedy said.

In Kennedy's opinion, the embassy was seized and the hostages taken "to get the revolution started up again because it had run out of steam."

Since April, 1983, terrorist attacks have become increasingly violent, commented Arnold, who is vice president of the Institute on Terrorism and Sub-National Conflict. He cited incidents in London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Rangoon and Beirut, where violence and indiscriminate attacks have taken scores of lives.

"Who the victims are has little to do with it," he said. "You cannot deal with all of them by the same psychology, for many are terrorists for hire, their acts aided and abetted by

a state. This can extend their chances for success. They are given a place to hide and a chance to escape.

"The view of the United States government is that we do not make concessions to terrorists," he said. "If we do, others will take advantage. France has in the past, and this may be the reason for the wave of bombings in Paris last September."

In dealing with terrorists, Arnold said the best advice is to be patient, bide your time and look for what the terrorists will settle for in the end.

"There has been no serious resolution of a terrorist incident without negotiations, but the issue is to find out what to negotiate about. Most terrorists have a single issue."

The use of force is only one of a dozen strategies the U.S. government has developed to deal with the problem, he said. Greater cooperation with other countries, improved training to make it more difficult for terrorists to strike, tighter border controls, collection of intelligence and making it more difficult for terrorists to track down Americans were some of the procedures he cited.

"It is police work," he said.

Sanctions, however, do not work, and they did not against Libya, but the action against the Achille Lauro sent a message to Italy, Arnold declared.

"Repeatedly, the United States has said state-sponsored terrorism must stop," he continued. "The use of force is a deterrent, and the U.S. has a lot of force, but most of it is useless against terrorists since the incidents

The use of force is only one of a dozen strategies the U.S. government has developed to deal with the problem. Greater cooperation with other countries and improved training will make it more difficult for terrorists to strike.

take place in someone else's country."

Chizik, who said his country has been dealing with the problem for 39 years, found a big difference between terrorists and freedom fighters. The first kill old women and children.

"As a soldier, I have respect for anyone who fights against me as a soldier, but these guys (terrorists)

cannot be called liberation fighters," he said. Israeli policy is to react against every terrorist incident.

Although the U.S. seems to consider the Middle East the center of terrorism, terrorism occurs all over the world, not only in the Middle East, although in that region the "terrorist organizations have a lot of sponsors."

"Is it just coincidence that the democratic countries of the West are struggling against terrorism?" he asked.

As for the role of the media, Kennedy said he disapproves of suggestions by Henry Kissinger and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that press coverage should be restricted.

"The media reflect events happening in the world, and I hope they will do more," he said.

Arnold described the media as "preoccupied with the issue." He added that the problem is how to tell the story as it is without becoming part of the problem.

He complained that the NBC interview with Abu Nidal "was close to violating the law. NBC had the responsibility of citizenship, and media people who have the protection of the First Amendment are citizens and cannot be allowed to forget it. We need a much higher quality of editorial judgment and cannot let them forget it."

VFW Firm on Terrorism

Two resolutions, 404 and 468, adopted by the 87th National Convention, put the VFW on record again as opposing international terrorism and suggesting means of combatting it.

Resolution 404 calls on President Reagan to take the offensive against terrorism, quarantine countries guilty of or suspected of harboring

or aiding terrorists, hold countries accountable for the security of Americans traveling abroad and remind countries unwilling to assist U.S. counter-terrorism efforts that there are no neutrals in this war.

Resolution 468 urges the press to handle terrorism stories with the same professionalism as employed in covering organized crime and

describes lax airport security, passage of terrorists through a country and sanctuary "collusion" in terrorism.

The resolution recommends punitive action against a country when evidence establishes continuous support for terrorists.

Be 'Even-Handed,' Says Pilot

An even-handed policy in the Middle East as an alternative to the present get tough against terrorist stance of the U.S. government is suggested by a former Arab hostage.

John Testrake, captain of the TWA 727 hijacked by terrorists in June, 1985, and held at the Beirut airport for 17 days, recently told the Kansas City Press Club the United States should return to former President Ford's even-handedness because the present attitude of "vengeance and stern retribution does not work even though most Americans are sympathetic with this approach."

"Israel is the foremost champion of this philosophy and is excellent at it, but after 40 years, Israel is developing more and more a fortress mentality," he said.

As an example, he cited the armored El Al passenger office at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

"What can be done?" he asked. "Tightened airport security is a shortrange solution. The thing to do

is to find out what is making them [the Arabs] so mad, what is the injustice they feel.

"Secretary of State Shultz says 'smash them' and there lies the problem. They are so motivated they will die for their cause."

Testrake said conditions will remain difficult in the Middle East "until we become big enough and fair enough to look beyond the bloody nose and say 'what's the beef.' We have to rise above the desire to strike back."

Testrake argued that the U.S. "goes half way around the world to be sympathetic, Ethiopia and South Africa, for example, but I do not see it in the Middle East, and this is the cause of deep-seated anger there."

It was on Testrake's plane that the Navy diver, Robert Stetham, was killed by terrorists. The pilot said, "I am not soft on terrorism or a victim of the Stockholm syndrome [in which hostages begin to identify with those who seized them], but the refugee

camps breed a never-ending supply of angry young men who want to expel Israel and get Palestine back."

Testrake suggested that one way to help defuse the Middle East situation would be for the U.S. to seek out moderate leaders among the Arabs and attempt to work with them.

"The only ones we hear about are the crazies," he added.

Testrake said he doubts the claim that terrorist incidents are launched to gain publicity for the cause.

"We tend to look at what they do through our own eyes, and I do not think it is completely true they are looking for headlines when they go out on a suicide mission," he said.

Testrake disagreed with predictions that the U.S. would become a terrorist target because "the United States is so far removed from their comprehension, and they lack the means to attack anything but an unarmed aircraft." ■

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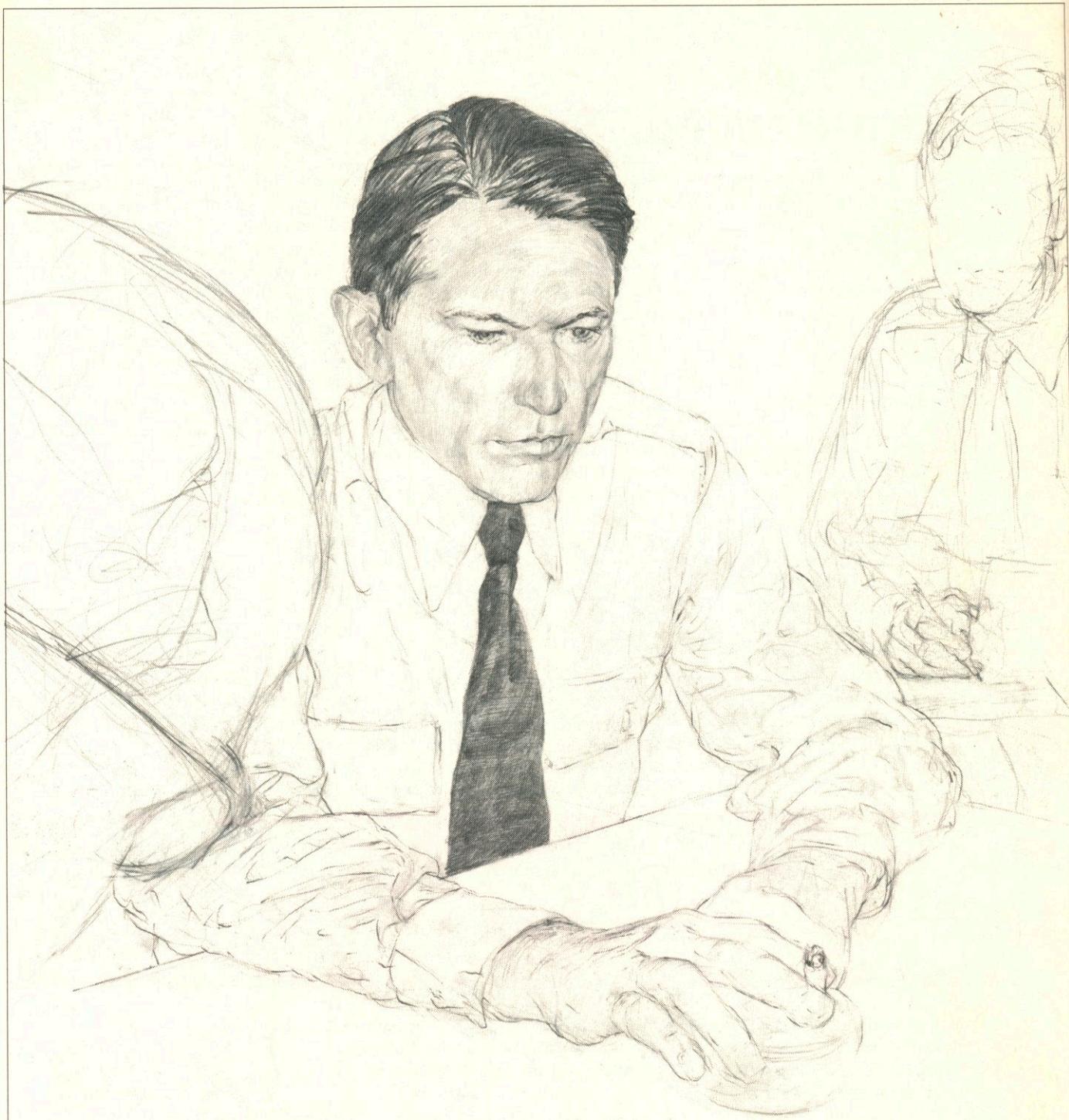
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L A S T M A N O N

By G. Max Gray

Amid some of the fiercest fighting in the Pacific during WWII, one of the strangest sagas of that war emerged.

On July 10, 1944, Japanese positions on the islands of Guam were under attack by the U.S. The Navy was shelling Japanese shore installations to soften up the island de-

fenses in preparation for a major landing of U.S. troops.

A bare half-mile off the island, the destroyer USS McCall was on station and its guns were firing away. From the bridge, a light was sighted near where their shells were

exploding. At first, it was thought to be gunfire, and the skipper ordered

the guns trained on the strange unidentified light.

Just before the guns began firing, the light changed to semaphore flags. The message began

GUAM

Illustration by Kendall Young

to give vital information on Japanese gun positions, and its sender asked to be picked up.

Thirty volunteers quickly manned the destroyer's whaleboat and cautiously approached the shore, with their sub-machine guns in the ready position. They stopped 300 feet from the beach and saw a ragged unshaven man beckoning and pleading for them to come closer. When the armed sailors refused, he swam out to them. In amazement, he was pulled into the boat and identified himself as George Tweed, radioman 1st class, USN.

He had been hiding on Guam for 31 months and was the only American not killed or captured on the 225 square-mile island.

Tweed was quickly transferred to the USS Hornet, where he was promoted to chief radioman. His back pay was tabulated and came to over \$6,000. Later aboard the USS Indianapolis, he made a report to Adm. Raymond A. Spruance and from the deck of the ship watched American Marines land on July 21. Since 1944, July 21 has been known as Guam's Liberation Day, the island's most important holiday.

The Indianapolis was the first American ship to enter Guam's harbor since the war began. From the cruiser, Tweed was taken ashore long enough to see that the native Chamorros who had helped him survive were rewarded.

George Tweed first went to Guam in 1939 as a radioman 1st class with his wife and son. Their second son was born there on Jan. 11, 1941. The following October, the government ordered all women and children evacuated. Tweed bade his small family goodbye as they left the island.

Early on the morning of Dec. 8, the first Japanese planes came over, bombing oil tanks and civilian workers' barracks. Another bombing raid came that afternoon. Ironically the only house hit was George Tweed's, while he was manning a portable radio on a hill position outside of the capital city of Agana.

Late that night, he returned to his wrecked home, dragged his bed into an area that still had some roof, and fell asleep.

He was awakened early the next morning by artillery fire, as the Japanese were already making a landing. He rushed from his bombed-out home towards the communications office. Quickly he recognized the hopeless situation and learned at the government house the garrison would soon have to surrender.

The island was being defended with only 150 Marines, whose heaviest firepower was machine guns, and 400 Navy personnel, mostly unarmed technicians. This small force fought as long and as hard as they could, but they were inadequate against the Japanese forces.

Tweed expected the Americans to come back soon and reclaim the island, so he decided to go into the bushes. In his car, an old 1926 Reo, he headed out of town. The Japanese had already reached the main street and set up machine guns. He made a run for it, and as he sped around a corner, bullets spattered all around the car. A seaman quickly joined Tweed in his car. They ducked their heads and roared wildly up a hill without getting hit.

It was 11 miles to the other side of the island, where they finally stopped. The two men hurriedly hid the car in some bushes and disappeared in the jungle in search of a hiding place. Tweed and the sailor continued to hide and stayed together for two months before the seaman left. They decided it would be safer to split up. Each man would be on his own. Some time later, Tweed learned the other man had been caught and killed.

In the early days of the war, Americans taken prisoner on Guam were held 30 days and then sent to prison camps in Japan. Japanese officers soon announced that any Americans who did not surrender and were in hiding would be shot on sight.

Daily search parties were sent out. Even after nine months of

searching, Americans still were being found and shot. Tweed was able to remain free, however, by continually moving about. Sometimes patrols passed within a few feet of his, as he concealed himself in the dense jungle. He constantly changed his living places, criss-crossing the island from cave to cave and bush to bush.

By now the Japanese had learned an American serviceman was still alive and hiding out there in the jungle somewhere. Patrols were increased to 50 men and continued their daily search for him. After a year of dodging these daily patrols, Tweed felt he would be captured eventually, but he continued to move, sometimes just minutes ahead of a heavily armed search party.

The relentless manhunt lasted for two years. Then the Japanese stopped looking for him and pronounced George Tweed dead.

Native Chamorros continually helped Tweed. They supplied him with some food and other items. It was from them that he learned the search for him was over, and he had been declared dead.

Feeling a little safer, he found a cave high on the west side of the island that gave him a sense of security.

It was difficult to get to, and he spent several of his last months there. From there, he had a good view of the upcoming battle. He also knew the Japanese gun positions, for he had watched them strengthen their defenses.

The Americans made their first heavy bombing of Guam on June 11. Tweed was elated as he saw the first American planes in the sky, realizing he didn't have long to wait for rescue.

On one raid, a pilot came in low, and Tweed shook his hands together over his head. The pilot flashed his lights in recognition.

When Tweed finally raced down the hill from his hiding place and swam to his rescuers, his 31 months of dodging the enemy ended, and he became the last American serviceman to leave Guam.



THE BEAR THAT FLIES

High over the Arctic Ocean ice pack north of Alaska, Capt. Larry Tutor and Lt. Ray Broyhill found their target — the biggest target ever.

Four big, clumsy-looking bombers droned through the upper atmosphere, the thin sunshine of the far north glinting from their long wings and fuselages.

From the cockpits of the F-15 Eagle fighter planes piloted by Tutor and Broyhill, the four large aircraft looked something like U.S. Air Force B-52 bombers.

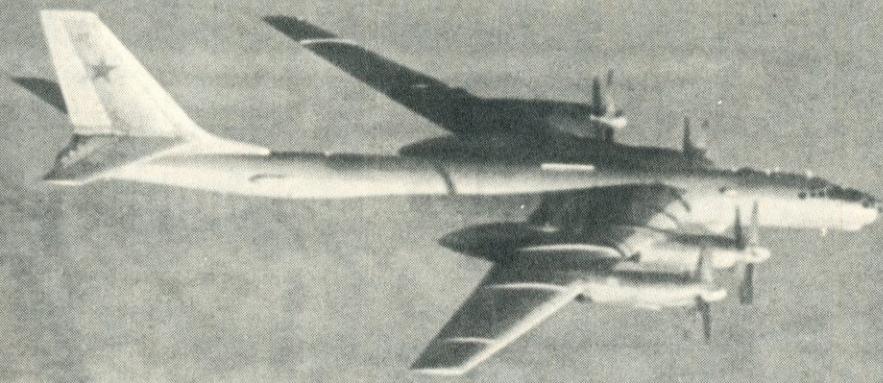
Broyhill, of Sioux City, Iowa, flying as wingman in the two-plane fighter sortie, and Tutor, an Edmond, Okla., native, knew they weren't Strategic Air Command bombers.

Each of the four planes being observed from the F-15s had a red, five-pointed star on its tail. And unlike the jet-powered B-52s, these bombers had whirling propellers on each of their four engines.

Not unexpectedly, Broyhill and Tutor said, the U.S. Air Force fighter planes were observing Soviet Bear-H bombers, a type of aircraft U.S. military intelligence agencies say is designed to carry cruise missiles.

What was unexpected was the number of Russian planes. The Bear-H "missile platforms" normally fly in pairs. Never before "have we encountered more than two at a time," said Col. William R. Povilus, commander of the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing, which operates the Alaska-

By Howard Silber



“We seemed to have surprised them,” he said. “It appeared [from the evasive maneuvers of the bombers] that they weren’t expecting us that far north.”

About 110 miles north of Point Barrow, the bombers turned west. “We stayed with them while they flew parallel to the Alaskan coast for about an hour,” Kurey said.

based F-15s.

The Tupolev bombers are familiar to Tutor, Broihill and their fellow Bear hunters of the 21st Wing, headquartered at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. On an average of once every two weeks, the big Soviet planes fly within range of U.S. defense radar stations, and said Lt. Gen. David N. Nichols, commander of the Alaskan Air Command, the frequency of their flights has been increasing.

Minutes after the air defense radar network operated by the command detects unidentified aircraft off Alaska’s coasts, a pair of F-15s takes off.

These alert aircraft and their one-man crews usually operate from civilian airports at Galena, midway between Nome and Fairbanks, or King Salmon, east of Anchorage near the Bering Sea.

Controllers in an operations center at Elmendorf or sometimes aboard an AWACS flying control center direct the supersonic fighter planes to the target.

That expression is used by the Air Force in its broadest sense. The F-15s are heavily armed, but they don’t shoot, except with the cameras the pilots always have with them. All of the confrontations have taken place over international waters, Povilus said.

The bombers often head toward U.S. territory, he said, but they always avoid intruding by changing course short of Alaska.

The trained Bear hunters fly alongside the bombers, sometimes for many miles. The American pilots study the Russian planes, looking for modifications in design and construction. As often as possible, the

Bears are photographed.

Frequently a U.S. intelligence agency “will ask us for specific photographs [of sections of the bombers] and we try to oblige,” said Povilus.

The Bear-H is a new version of an old plane. According to the authoritative “Jane’s All the World’s Aircraft,” the first flight of a Bear-class bomber was made in 1954.

The Bear production line has been reopened periodically to build variants of the plane for the Soviet air force and navy, but the Bear-H is the first strike version of the plane to be introduced since 1970.

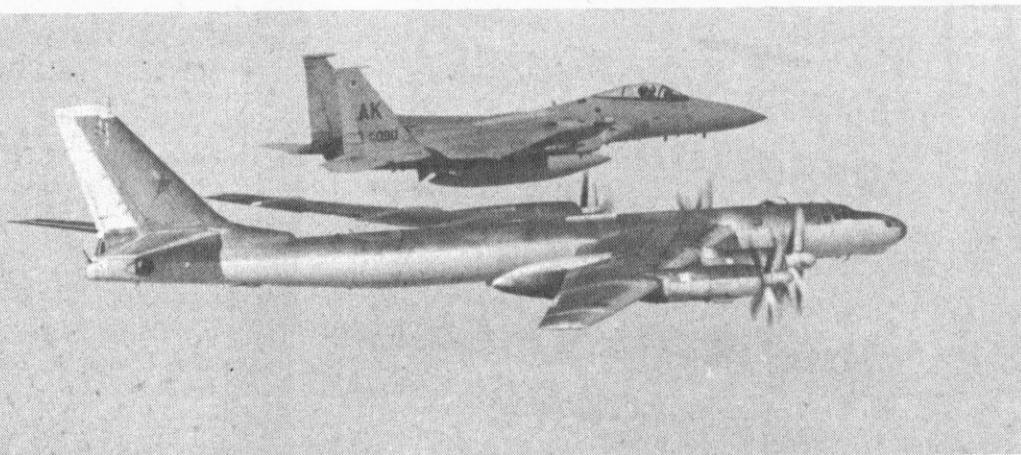
“The Bear-H evidently suits their purpose,” said Povilus. “It’s as if we were to reopen the old Boeing B-52 production line in Wichita, Kansas.” The last B-52 was built there 25 years ago.

U.S. military intelligence sources say that since the Bear-H was first observed three years ago, the Soviet air force has obtained about 55 of them. The current production rate is believed to be between 15 and 20 a year.

The Bear-H is designed to carry the air-launched AS-15 cruise missile, which has been operational since 1984. That subsonic, low-altitude missile has a range of about 2,000 miles. It is designed to be armed with a single nuclear warhead.

Nichols, the top military commander in Alaska, said in an interview that no American spotter has observed a Bear-H carrying a cruise missile. None had been seen with an under-wing pylon from which a missile could be launched.

“We have seen hard points on the wings — places that have been made



strong enough to mount pylons," he said.

The Bear-Hs "could be carrying cruise missiles internally," but none of the bombers has been seen with its bomb-bay doors open, Nichols said.

The general and Povilus said the Bear-H flights near Alaska, over the Arctic Ocean and the Bering Sea, probably are intended by Soviet military leaders to combine crew training with attempts to measure the promptness and effectiveness of U.S. air defense reaction.

Until recently, the Soviet Union had few long-range bombers — a fleet of somewhat more than 100 old, propellor-driven Bears and Bisons. The introduction of the Bear-H as a cruise missile platform adds a significant dimension to the responsibilities of Nichols and his Alaskan Air Command.

Nuclear-tipped cruise missiles launched from near Alaska could reach important targets in the rest of the United States — missile silos and bomber bases in the Midwest and High Plains and a number of major cities.

Formerly, the Alaskan Air Command "had to worry about defending ourselves up here," Nichols said. "Now we are concerned with protecting the Lower 48 states."

"The quickest route from the Soviet Union is over the North Pole. If that should happen, we in Alaska are in a position to take on about half the Soviet cruise missile carriers. We would have to stop them with our forces in Iceland and here, and Canada would participate."

"We're farther north than even Canada, so we could get to the Bear-H bombers before they launch their

missiles," Nichols said.

There are just 27 F-15s in all of Alaska. That force is hardly large enough to counter a heavy Soviet assault employing fighters from as close as the Soviet air base at Anadyr on Siberia's Chukchi Peninsula, about 350 miles from Alaska, as well as Bear-H and possibly other types of bombers, Nichols said.

The thin air defense isn't unique to Alaska. The Air Force has said the entire United States has no more than 200 fighter planes primarily assigned as interceptors.

Instead of deploying batteries of surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft cannon and swarms of interceptor aircraft as the Soviet Union does, the United States relies on its strategic forces — primarily nuclear-armed missiles and bombers and the Navy's fleet of missile-firing submarines to deter a nuclear attack.

Nevertheless, Nichols said he is confident that "over time we'll see more F-15s in Alaska."

Meanwhile, the F-15s are extending their zone of operations with the help of Strategic Air Command tanker aircraft based near Fairbanks and the AWACS air control planes now in Alaska.

Capt. Bill Kurey and Lt. Col. John Burns showed the way in a mission in September, 1986.

With the runway at King Salmon air station closed for repairs, they were on alert at Elmendorf. Radar picked up an image of an unidentified aircraft over the Arctic Ocean far north of Point Barrow, Alaska.

The Soviet planes were well beyond the normal operating range of the F-15s and beyond the capability of the regional operations center at Elmendorf to guide the fighters

effectively.

A KC-135 tanker refueled the fighters over Alaska's northern slope and the AWACS plane guided the F-15s to a pair of southbound Bear-H bombers about 950 miles north of Anchorage.

It was the northernmost intercept of Soviet aircraft by fighters operating from Alaska, Kurey said.

"We seemed to have surprised them," he said. "It appeared [from the evasive maneuvers of the bombers] that they weren't expecting us that far north."

About 110 miles north of Point Barrow, the bombers turned west. "We stayed with them while they flew parallel to the Alaskan coast for about an hour," Kurey said.

The twin 20-millimeter tail guns were the only weapons visible aboard the bombers. "They were up in a caged position," said Kurey. "The guns always are caged."

As the American pilots flew close to the bombers, "we could hear and feel the vibrations of the engines," Kurey said. "They are terribly noisy."

Seldom does the Bear-H crew acknowledge the presence of the F-15s during the intercept missions, Kurey and several other fighter pilots said.

But on one recent mission, a Russian appeared to be photographing the interceptor planes. He was using a big box camera.

And as one of the F-15s pulled away, a tailgunner aboard a Bear-H made a V-sign with his right hand and waved.

It was an unusual occurrence in the coldest sector of Cold War. ■

About the Author:

Howard Silber, military editor of the Omaha World-Herald, is a frequent contributor.

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Of the many VFW member benefits, one of the fastest growing, in terms of utilization by the membership, is the VFW Travel Service.

Many members are using this benefit to schedule flights for VFW business or personal travel. To obtain reduced rates on airline tickets, cruises and travel packages, simply write to VFW Travel Services Department, 34th and Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. Or call toll free 1-800-325-9377 (In Missouri call collect, 816-968-1123) 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Central Time, any business day.

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choice listed below. Tell the reservationist that you are a VFW member and give the corresponding VFW identification number.

These services and the savings they provide are another reason why it pays to be a member in the finest veterans' organization in the world.

Attention, Post Quartermasters

In recent weeks, the VFW Insurance Department has received a

number of No Cost Insurance Beneficiary Forms addressed to an outdated post office box number. If you have any of the old envelopes addressed to P.O. Box 67, please discard them as the Postal Service will no longer forward them. The correct address is Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Insurance Department, P.O. Box 32347, Kansas City, MO 64111-5347.

| COMPANY | TELEPHONE | VFW ID# |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Avis..... | 1-800-331-1212..... | AWA-A/A993500 |
| Hertz..... | 1-800-654-3011..... | CDPD164126 |
| National..... | 1-800-227-7368..... | 5180005 |
| American Intl..... | 1-800-527-0202... | Current VFW Card # |

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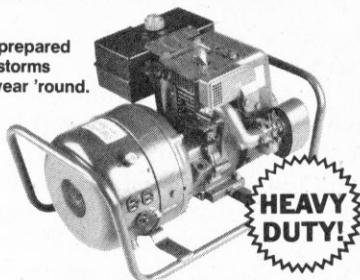
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Kilmer's Memory Ever Green

By Gigi Vonoh

Action by the 34th National VFW Encampment, as the Convention was then known, in Louisville, Ky., in 1935, was recalled in a summer-long observance in North Carolina in which the Department's **17th District** was prominent.

And properly so, for the founding of the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in Graham County, N.C., was prompted by a resolution introduced by **Post 1955**, Lafayette, N.Y., and it was the forest's rededication on its 50th anniversary that kept the veterans in the limelight all summer.

Not only did three celebrations held to commemorate the dedication of the forest named for the soldier-poet of the American Expeditionary Force and author of "Trees," but they honored veterans and all those who devoted themselves to preserving the nation's freedom.

All three celebrations were held at the Rattler Ford Campground near the entrance to the forest in the watersheds of Little Santeetlah and Slickrock Creeks on the Nantahala National Forest's Cheoah District.

The first all-day celebration was held on Memorial Day. The second was held July 30, a half-century after the original dedication of the forest. The last one was Oct. 18, two months before the centennial of Kilmer's birth.

The 3,800-acre Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Memorial Forest, part of the 14,000-acre Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness Area, was named as a living memorial to Kilmer, a journalist, poet, nature lover and soldier who was killed on July 30, 1918.

The 35th National Encampment resolution requested the United States Department of Agriculture to select a site in the national forests of America to serve as a fitting memorial to Kilmer.

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace approved the request, and

the search for an appropriate location ended in the Nantahala Forest.

A large bronze anniversary plaque was unveiled at the July celebration by Kilmer's two children, Sister Michael and Kenton Kilmer. Metal coins and the plaque to commemorate the anniversary were designed by Thomas Rogers, a well-known sculptor.

Mildred Wulff, of Waynesville, N.C., attended the 50th anniversary as well as the original dedication as part of a crowd of about 50 people who found themselves bogged down in heavy mud on that July day in 1936.

She recalled that some roadbuilding equipment had to be put into service to ferry them to the dedication site or tow and push their automobiles to the entrance of the forest.

Forest Service personnel and Civilian Conservation Corps members had worked day and night for two months to build an ungraveled road for that original dedication.

Now the entrance to the forest, about 15 miles northwest of Robbinsville, home of **Post 8635**, is easily accessible from US Highway 129 by paved Forest Service roads. The forest boasts more than 60 miles of hiking trails penetrating deep into a cathedral of trees, plants, flowering shrubs and animals. The loveliness is as old and everlasting as time itself, with enchanting names like Popular Cove, Indian Spring Creek and Horse Cove, special places, each with its own intriguing story.

The forest is noted for huge trees. Some are more than 20 feet around the base and more than 100 feet tall.

The memorial tract is maintained in its primitive and natural state. No plants, living or dead, may be cut or removed.

At the final rededication cerem-

continued on page 44

Honors, Awards, Dignity

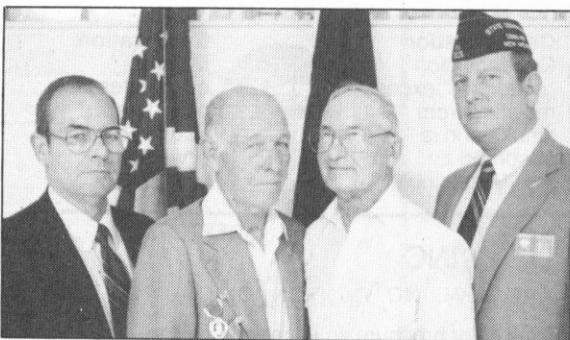


Robert A. Jones, Illinois public relations chairman; Commander Frank Jellinek, of Post 1596, West Chicago, and Commander Ken Richard, of Post 6791, West Chicago, join in honoring James Patridge, right, the legless Vietnam veteran who rolled his wheelchair 80 yards and then crawled another 20 to revive a 1-year-old girl who had fallen into her family's swimming pool. The three are holding a special VFW citation presented to Patridge. He also was made a Life Member of Post 6791.

VFW members frequently are singled out for special praise for their achievements, but they are quick, too, to recognize others for assistance they render either as part of their vocation or rising to an occasion requiring heroism. Sometimes they are chosen to perform a patriotic act for their community. And often they have fun.



Abigail Van Buren, nationally syndicated columnist, receives the Serve America Award from then Auxiliary National President Lucile Suchina at the Auxiliary's national convention.



After receiving belated medals, William C. Ross and John T. McGee, veterans of the 200th Coast Artillery and the Bataan Death March, pose with John Hargues, New Mexico Veterans Commission service officer, left, and New Mexico Department Commander Richard L. Dindinger. Ross received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, McGee a Bronze Star.



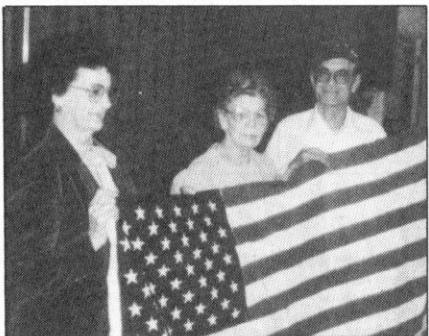
At the wheel of the restored Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, Samuel B. Stevens III, and his family pose in front of the home of Post 2246 in Rome, N.Y. The Post home originally was the Stevens mansion where the first Samuel B. Stevens, once a famous racing car driver, grew up. The third Samuel B. Stevens brought the car home for a weekend with Post members and other Rome citizens.



With the installation of Post 1114, Evansville, Ind., and FRA Branch 365 did some official position trading. L.O. Montgomery, right, became the new Commander of Post 1114 and FRA 365 chaplain while Ray Moneer, outgoing FRA Branch 365 president, became Post 1114 Chaplain.



When Columbus, N.C., celebrated the Fourth of July, Post 9116 had the honor of raising the Flag at the opening ceremonies. Post Commander H. Scott Camp and Quartermaster Henry Huntsinger carry out the responsibility.



Commander Dennis R. Langton, right, of Post 276, Whitefish, Mont., and Auxiliary 276 President Birdie B. Langton present Millie Harris, president of the Golden Agers Center with a Flag for the group.



When he was still Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Norman G. Staab, now Commander-in-Chief, was the principal speaker at the 50th anniversary celebration of Post 1033, Covington, Va.



In the center, retired Maj. Gen. James L. Dozier, who was held hostage by terrorists in Italy, becomes a VFW member. With him are Florida Jr. Vice Commander James Carlisle and M.L. Groendyke, Department public relations chairman.

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IN THE FIELD

continued from page 40

ony, Kilmer's son and his family, Kilmer's daughter, North Carolina Gov. Jim Martin, Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan and Rep. Bill Hendon paid tribute to the nation's living veterans and those who gave their lives for American freedom.

A concert was given by the 82nd Airborne Division band and the Robbinsville High School band.

Commander Jerome Franklin, of the 17th District, summed up the remarks of other dignitaries when he said he was proud to be in this magnificent place, where the beauty of God's creation is undisturbed by man, and to pay tribute to Joyce Kilmer, a comrade who laid down his life for the country. "We are here to honor the dead by serving the living," he added.

Representing Robbinsville Post 8635 was Service Officer Arvil Webster.

Just 17 days after the U.S. entered World War I, Kilmer, then 32, gave up a brilliant journalistic and literary career at the New York Times to enlist as a private in the 7th Regiment of the New York National Guard.

Shortly before the regiment left for Spartanburg, S.C., Kilmer was transferred to the 165th Infantry at Camp Mills, L.I., N.Y., and he was senior regimental statistician when his outfit sailed from France in October, 1917. The regiment (New York's "Fighting 69th") was part of the famous 42nd (Rainbow) Division.

It was a job which would keep him close to regimental headquarters — what the Army called a "soft berth."

It was exactly for that reason that Kilmer was dissatisfied.

He wanted to be in the front lines where the action was, and his insistence led to his transfer to the regimental intelligence staff.

On July 30, 1918, his courage took him into the scarred and shattered timber which is still called the Wood of the Burned Bridge. His outfit was trying to locate enemy machine gun nests.

Not more than 30 feet from Kilmer was Maj. William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan, who later commanded the 165th and the OSS in WWII. When it came time for them to move forward, Donovan called to Kilmer.

There was no response. Donovan looked closer and saw Kilmer huddled on the ground. A sniper's bullet had stilled forever the voice of the man who had written and sung "Trees."

They buried Kilmer among the war-blasted tree stumps of Bois Colas, the kind of trees which were far different from those he had in mind when he wrote the poem. The French government later awarded him the Croix de Guerre for bravery in action.

But his memory is kept green with the memorial forest in North Carolina, one of the best remaining examples of a native American virgin forest.

The end to the perfect, crisp fall day, in October, with nature's paint brush making the trees turn yellow, orange, and red, was the Robbinsville High School band sounding taps.

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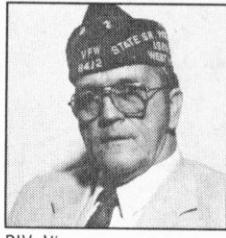
M E M B E R S H I P

October Commanders-of-the-Month

DEPARTMENT



DIV. III
Wisconsin
James Kurz (2)



DIV. VI
West Virginia
Jimmy Gibson (2)



DIV. IX
Vermont
Merritt Edwards



DIV. I
Illinois
Edward Trennert (2)



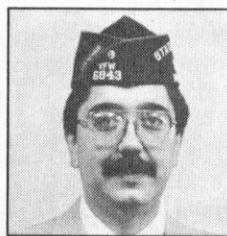
DIV. IV
Maryland
Newman T. Braaten (2)



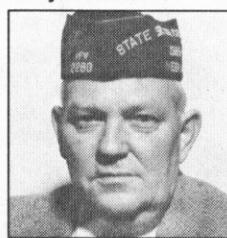
DIV. VII
Colorado
Darrell D. Elliot (2)



DIV. X
Delaware
Joseph L. Eckrich, Sr.



DIV. II
Minnesota
Larry Ziebarth



DIV. V
Nebraska
C.C. Blankinship (2)



DIV. VIII
South Dakota
William H. Tarrell



DIV. XI
Panama Canal
Edward E. Bradley

POST

| | |
|---|---|
| DIV. I Post 1114 Indiana Lawrence Montgomery (2) | DIV. II Post 2539 Mississippi James Underhill |
| DIV. III Post 3962 Mississippi John Graham (2) | DIV. IV Post 2562 Maryland Tomas F. Bunting |
| DIV. V Post 4667 Virginia Roy L. Hayes (2) | DIV. VI Post 2689 Indiana Gene W. Bartrom |
| DIV. VII Post 8510 Minnesota Joe Vuicich (2) | DIV. VIII Post 1642 Minnesota Richard Buck (2) |
| DIV. IX Post 4695 Texas Robert Dutton (2) | DIV. X Post 4490 Mississippi Bobby Miller |
| DIV. XI Post 5394 California Robert Fontenot | DIV. XII Post 10370 Alabama Bobby C. King (2) |
| DIV. XIII Post 1983 Mississippi Claude Hudgins, Jr. | DIV. XIV Post 9292 Virginia Claude M. Shifflett (2) |
| DIV. XV Post 2000 New York Lucio Munar (2) | DIV. XVI Post 6111 Texas Alvin L. Goerdel (2) |
| DIV. XVII Post 10427 Texas Joseph C. Schumaker | DIV. XVIII Post 4976 Mississippi Billy Palmer (2) |
| DIV. XIX Post 8800 Texas C.E. Gathright, Sr. (2) | DIV. XX Post 1319 Oklahoma James Schutte (2) |

DISTRICT

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| DIV. I District 8 Indiana Paul Roseberry (2) | DIV. II District 3 Indiana James A. Pauwels | DIV. III District 14 Maryland Arnett C. Powers | DIV. IV District 1 Indiana John Klapak, Sr. | DIV. V District 13 Mississippi Roy Colston (2) |
| DIV. VI District 6 South Dakota Charles L. Hadrick | DIV. VII District 2 Maryland Francis Gill (2) | DIV. VIII District 8 Mississippi C.B. Edwards (2) | DIV. IX District 10 West Virginia Ralph M. Baber (2) | DIV. X District 2 Europe Charles E. Van Houten |

(Figure in parentheses indicates number of times Commander has won this honor.)

Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of November 12, 1986

| Post Place No. | Location | 1986-87 Membership |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 1114 | Evansville, IN | 3440 |
| 2 628 | Sioux Falls, SD | 2078 |
| 3 360 | Mishawaka, IN | 1964 |
| 4 2539 | Gulfport, MS | 1943 |
| 5 5555 | Richfield, MN | 1898 |
| 6 3579 | Park Ridge, IL | 1883 |
| 7 1308 | Alton, IL | 1748 |
| 8 6506 | Rosedale, MD | 1678 |
| 9 47 | Uniontown, PA | 1659 |
| 10 1146 | St. Clair Shores, MI | 1591 |
| 11 1064 | Huntington, WV | 1537 |
| 12 1296 | Bloomington, MN | 1532 |
| 13 131 | Lincoln, NE | 1511 |
| 14 3962 | Corinth, MS | 1509 |
| 15 1273 | Rapid City, SD | 1484 |
| 16 2290 | Manville, NJ | 1425 |
| 17 401 | Albuquerque, NM | 1360 |
| 18 1599 | Chambersburg, PA | 1355 |
| 19 49 | Mobile, AL | 1339 |
| 20 1989 | Indiana, PA | 1302 |
| 21 1275 | Lima, OH | 1296 |
| 22 249 | Butler, PA | 1267 |
| 23 6704 | Mechanicsburg, PA | 1264 |
| 24 367 | Joliet, IL | 1263 |
| 25 379 | Yakima, WA | 1253 |
| 26 | 1079 | Elyria, OH |
| 27 | 9619 | Morningside, MD |
| 28 | 4372 | Odessa, TX |
| 29 | 2100 | Everett, WA |
| 30 | 969 | Tacoma, WA |
| 31 | 4057 | Tupelo, MS |
| 32 | 447 | Albert Lea, MN |
| 33 | 2503 | Omaha, NE |
| 34 | 6640 | Metairie, LA |
| 35 | 1621 | Janesville, WI |
| 36 | 5632 | St. Louis Park, MN |
| 37 | 6975 | Bristol, VA |
| 38 | 573 | Clarksburg, WV |
| 39 | 8541 | San Antonio, TX |
| 40 | 6251 | Cheektowaga, NY |
| 41 | 4087 | Davison, MI |
| 42 | 549 | Tucson, AZ |
| 43 | 7330 | Oakville, CT |
| 44 | 2199 | Joliet, IL |
| 45 | 6796 | Dallas, TX |
| 46 | 112 | Wichita, KS |
| 47 | 6874 | Lemon Grove, CA |
| 48 | 6240 | Russell, KS |
| 49 | 2529 | Sandusky, OH |
| 50 | 1810 | Brentwood, PA |
| 51 | 1650 | Topeka, KS |
| 52 | 1865 | Kenosha, WI |
| 53 | 5263 | Fort Sill, OK |
| 54 | 1736 | Alexandria, LA |
| 55 | 7987 | New Port Richey, FL |
| 56 | 428 | Saint Cloud, MN |
| 57 | 2562 | Silver Spring, MD |
| 58 | 1003 | Jefferson City, MO |
| 59 | 3382 | Kingsport, TN |
| 60 | 295 | S. St. Paul, MN |
| 61 | 2940 | W. Seneca, NY |
| 62 | 3851 | Carmi, IL |
| 63 | 3790 | Logansport, IN |
| 64 | 9083 | Baltimore, MD |
| 65 | 2346 | Saugus, MA |
| 66 | 4903 | Tucson, AZ |
| 67 | 10209 | Spring Hill, FL |
| 68 | 283 | Kingston, PA |
| 69 | 1432 | Salina, KS |
| 70 | 6896 | Detroit, MI |
| 71 | 641 | Columbia, SC |
| 72 | 1000 | Independence, MO |
| 73 | 2702 | Huntsville, AL |

Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through October 31, 1986.

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 67.93%

| | | |
|----|---------------|-------|
| 1 | MINNESOTA | 75.95 |
| 2 | Maryland | 75.81 |
| 3 | Wisconsin | 75.05 |
| 4 | South Dakota | 74.35 |
| 5 | Indiana | 73.11 |
| 6 | Panama Canal | 73.01 |
| 7 | Kansas | 72.58 |
| 8 | Michigan | 72.10 |
| 9 | West Virginia | 71.77 |
| 10 | California | 71.65 |
| 11 | Nebraska | 71.00 |
| 12 | Vermont | 70.49 |
| 13 | Maine | 70.33 |
| 14 | Illinois | 69.86 |
| 15 | Mississippi | 69.54 |
| 16 | North Dakota | 69.36 |
| 17 | Louisiana | 69.11 |
| 18 | New Jersey | 68.99 |
| 19 | Colorado | 68.98 |
| 20 | Wyoming | 68.84 |
| 21 | Arizona | 68.72 |

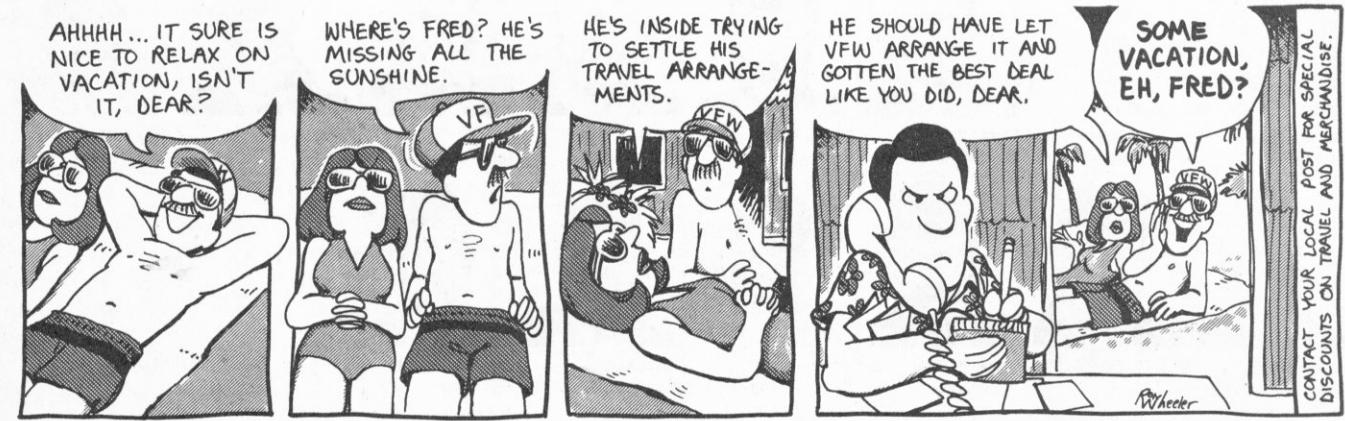
| | | |
|----|----------------------|-------|
| 22 | Virginia | 68.41 |
| 23 | Rhode Island | 68.34 |
| 24 | Connecticut | 68.31 |
| 25 | Ohio | 67.92 |
| 26 | Iowa | 67.74 |
| 27 | Missouri | 67.30 |
| 28 | District of Columbia | 67.29 |
| 29 | Washington | 66.76 |
| 30 | New York | 66.70 |
| 31 | Florida | 66.44 |
| 32 | New Hampshire | 66.21 |
| 33 | Oklahoma | 66.16 |
| 34 | Massachusetts | 65.93 |
| 35 | Texas | 64.79 |
| 36 | Montana | 64.76 |
| 37 | Hawaii | 64.57 |
| 38 | Delaware | 64.56 |
| 39 | Oregon | 64.47 |
| 40 | Nevada | 64.46 |
| 41 | New Mexico | 64.19 |
| 42 | Pennsylvania | 63.92 |
| 43 | Arkansas | 63.71 |
| 44 | Idaho | 63.56 |
| 45 | Kentucky | 63.31 |
| 46 | North Carolina | 63.00 |
| 47 | Pacific Area | 62.95 |
| 48 | Georgia | 62.12 |
| 49 | Alabama | 61.37 |
| 50 | South Carolina | 58.76 |
| 51 | Tennessee | 58.47 |
| 52 | Utah | 57.77 |
| 53 | Alaska | 54.59 |
| 54 | Europe | 37.61 |

National Aides-de-Camp

The following members have distinguished themselves by winning appointments as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

Donald J. Sweat, Post 15005, Sacramento, Calif.; Thomas W. Clark, Jr., Post 5225, West Memphis, Ark.; Ray Simmons, Post 9326, Tuckerman, Ark.; Ernest Kyler, Post 1057, Red Bluff, Calif.; Robert Fontenot, Sr., Post 5394, Compton, Calif.; I.C. Howard, Post 8547, Moreno Valley, Calif., and William D. Smith, Post 1590, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Marty



M E M B E R S H I P

1986-87 Department Commanders



Gerald S. Brock
Alabama



Randell Kruse
Alaska



Ernest Melendez
Arizona



Verlin F. Williams
Arkansas



Frank M. Borrello
California



Darrell D. Elliott
Colorado



Henry Lefevre
Connecticut



Joseph L. Eckrich, Sr.
Delaware



J. Thomas Burch
District of Columbia



George T. Kelley
Florida



Dallas Reeves
Georgia



J.B. Virgil
Europe



Frank A. Candalisa
Hawaii



Harold E. Meek
Idaho



Edward A. Trennert
Illinois



Leo Reller
Indiana



Kenneth Fogleman
Iowa



Harold Prochaska
Kansas



Leroy Ford
Kentucky



Walden S. Hymel
Louisiana



John L. Stehli
Maine



Newman T. Braaten
Maryland



Theodore R. Eaton
Massachusetts



Irving Wendt
Michigan



Larry Ziebarth
Minnesota



A.O. Cummings
Mississippi



William Coleman
Missouri



Dan G. Norton
Montana



Conliff C. Blankinship
Nebraska



Donald E. Wiggin
Nevada



Paul Benson
New Hampshire



Otto A. Gollon, Jr.
New Jersey



Richard L. Dindinger
New Mexico



Christopher J. Mulcahy
New York



David Joe Duncan
North Carolina



Kent Anderson
North Dakota



Wm. Gordon Smith
Ohio



Stanley Grubaugh
Oklahoma



Loyd Abbott
Oregon



Paul T. O'Dowd
Pacific Areas



Edward E. Bradley
Panama Canal



Allen Q. Jones
Pennsylvania



George Dolman
Rhode Island



George A. Bopp
South Carolina



William H. Tarrell
South Dakota



David W. Tipton
Tennessee



Allan G. Grice
Texas



Gary L. Clark
Utah



Merritt Edwards
Vermont



Henry E. Cluney
Virginia



Daniel M. Carty
Washington



Jimmy Gibson
West Virginia



James Kurz
Wisconsin



John Mergenthal
Wyoming

VA Errs, Vet Wins

Words are so meaningless to express our thanks to you for our good fortune. We are so grateful for your help.

Those words are taken from a letter by John M. Conrad, Jr., and his wife, to Lionel (Pete) Vaillancourt, New Hampshire VFW Department Service Officer. It only begins to tell of the real appreciation they feel toward him for the service he rendered on their behalf.

While reviewing Conrad's VA claim folder on an unrelated issue, Vaillancourt came across a letter by Conrad to the St. Paul VA Center in January, 1984. The veteran related that he had undergone emergency surgery for an aorta aneurysm at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in White River Junction, Vt., and the surgeon failed to reattach his kidneys. Later surgery to correct the error proved unsuccessful, Conrad wrote, and he was left with a permanent disability that required indefinite kidney dialysis.

His curiosity aroused, Vaillancourt reviewed the actual clinical records associated with the original surgery. He found they supported the veteran's account. He contacted Conrad immediately and advised him that a valid claim existed for compensation benefits under the provisions of Section 351, United States Code, based on injury suffered while undergoing VA medical care. A formal petition then was filed.

In October, 1985, Conrad received notice from the Manchester, N.H., Veterans Administration Regional Office that his claim was approved. Subsequently, he was notified that he was entitled to a 100% disability evaluation of monthly benefits of more than \$1,300. This was in addition to a \$20,000 retroactive payment based on the effective date established.

It is clear that Vaillancourt's alertness was the key to the success-

ful conclusion of this case. Had he not accidentally found the veteran's communication of January, 1984, it is highly unlikely that a claim for compensation would have surfaced.

"The compensation does mean a big difference in our lives, a difference in keeping our house of 18 years or losing it," wrote the Conrads of Vaillancourt's action. ■

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continued on page 52

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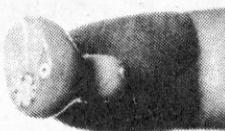
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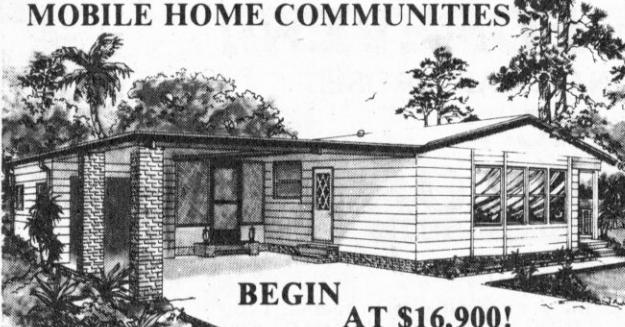
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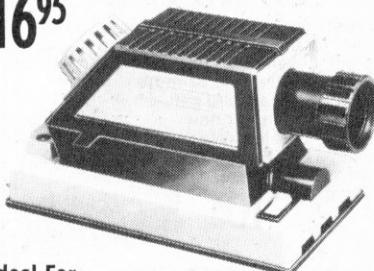
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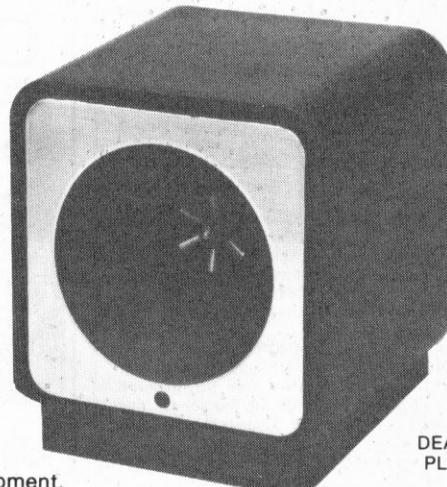
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These Ultrasonic Eliminators are NOT copies. These are the same famous Pest Eliminators that have been nationally advertised in leading publications throughout America, the same type that have been selling in this country's most prestigious catalogs for up to ten times the price and just recently advertised on television for much, much more. These are by far the fastest selling and most effective rodent and insect eliminators ever sold by this multi-million dollar New York Firm.

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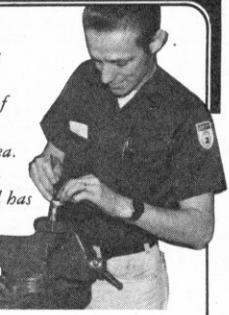
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continued on page 54

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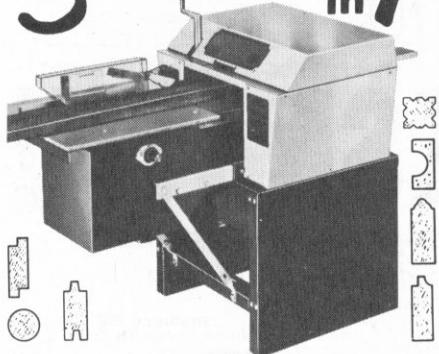


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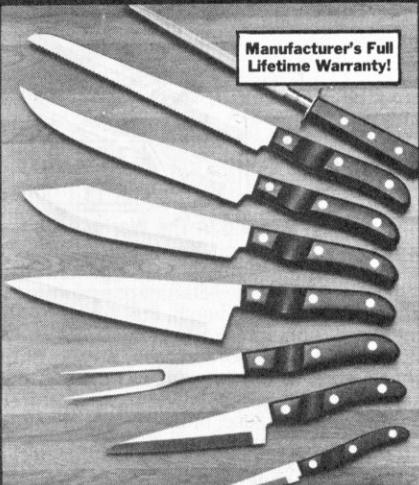
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2. Attention of all units is directed to the following amendments to the Manual of Procedure adopted by the National Council of Administration at its meeting held on Oct. 4, 1986, in Kansas City, Missouri, to clarify the understanding and facilitate the implementation of the By-Law Amendment adopted by the 87th National Convention, which provides for any person otherwise eligible for membership but not previously a member or any former member otherwise eligible for reinstatement to become a Life Member:

Add the following paragraph to Section 105, Manual of Procedure, titled, **Members In Good Standing**:

"A life member is in good standing for as long as he/she shall live unless his/her membership is terminated by reason of ineligibility or suspended or forfeited by reason of court-martial."

Add the following to the first sentence of Section 106, Manual of Procedure, titled, **Former Members — Reinstate**:

"except that a former member, including a member whose current year's dues are unpaid who becomes a life member, shall not be liable for the payment of the current year's dues."

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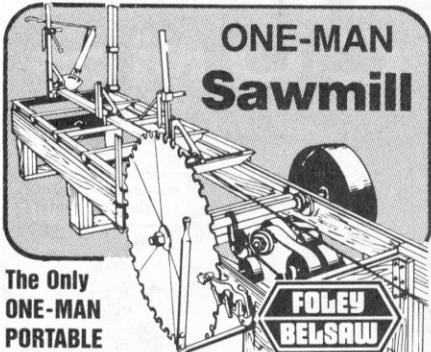
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GENERAL ORDERS

continued from page 55

3. Annual members are reminded that their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States expires Dec. 31, 1986, unless their 1987 dues are paid and reported to Department and National Headquarters. Every effort should be made to renew the membership of continuous members, and also sign up new and reinstated members prior to Jan. 1, 1987.

4. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day on Dec. 7. Posts should plan programs of suitable observance in commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day. (See VFW Ritual)

5. The Annual Washington Conference of Department Commanders and National Officers will be held in Washington, D.C., Feb. 27-March 3, 1987. The Congressional Dinner will be held on Tuesday evening, March 3, 1987.

6. The 88th National Convention, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will be held in New Orleans, La., Aug. 14-21, 1987.

7. Post Commanders are reminded that entries for Community Activities Single Outstanding Project recognition may be submitted at any time during the year. This Community Activities National Awards Program is a continuing one, with the panel of judges covering every two months. Details of the program are set forth in the Awards brochure in the Community Activities kit which has been sent to all Post Commanders.

8. Post Commanders are reminded that Jan. 1 is one of the official days when the Flag of the United States is to be displayed by all Americans.

9. Paragraph (d), Section 222 of the National Constitution and By-Laws provides "each Post shall register, in advance, at least one delegate to the National Convention by the payment of a fee in the amount of six dollars (\$6.00), which fee shall entitle the post to a packet of convention information and materials." Posts that did not pay the advance registration fee for the 87th National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, are reminded that they are delinquent and in arrears. All such Posts are directed to pay the regular registration fee which is now \$8.00 forthwith. Post check should be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters immediately.

10. The National Council of Administration has approved the change in name of the Department of Germany to the Department of Europe and the extension of the jurisdiction of the Department to include the countries of Western Europe and the assignment of Post No. 605, Paris, France, to its jurisdiction.

11. Certificates of charters evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 38 and 179 consolidated as Post 38, Reading, Pa.; Posts 52 and 9054 consolidated as Post 52, Stockton, Calif.; Posts 3218 and 2030 consolidated as Post 3218, North Tonawanda, N.Y.; Posts 8096 and 10418 consolidated as Post 8096, Butler, N.J., and Posts 8946, 7855, and 8965 consolidated as Post 8946, Woodcliff Lake, N.J.

12. Announcement is made of the correct location for the following Post: Post 7468, Upper Marlboro, Md.

13. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post 35, Jefferson, Mo.; Post 1204, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Post 1217, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Post 1339, Williams Point, Fla.; Post 1478, Woodbine, Ga.; Post 4810, Canton, Miss.; Post 6474, Ft. Loramie, Ohio; Post 6484, New Boston, Ohio; Post 6546, Portsmouth, Ohio; Post 6569, Niagara Falls, N.Y.; Post 6630, Elverson, Pa.; Post 6631, Selinsgrove, Pa.; Post 6803, Watervliet, Mich.; Post 6819, Colon, Mich.; Post 6821, Kentwood, Mich.; Post 7057, Gosnell, Ark.; Post 7076, Hartford City, Ind.; Post 7081, Dunkirk, Ind.; Post 7084, Union City, Ind.; Post 7087, Chesterton, Ind.; Post 7091, Harrisburg, N.C.; Post 7126, Alden, Mich.; Post 7539, Kingsley, Mich.; Post 7889, Roseville, Calif., and Post 9162, Burlington, Iowa.

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Readers are urged to help these veterans seeking claim substantiation statements. Submit claims assistance requests to VFW Magazine, Claims, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City MO 64111.

AIR FORCE

5th AF, (South Pacific, 1942)—Seeking anyone who remembers me to substantiate claim—Thomas Simms, 3433 South State RD 43, Lafayette IN 47905.
6132nd TAC Construction Gp.—Seeking B. Bigham or anyone who remembers my wounds and heart problem—James Wiecks, 1029 State St., Apt. 31, River Falls WI 54022.

ARMY

1st Cav., 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav., Trp. B—Seeking Jim Southland—Carl McClure, Rt. 1, Box 192, Beckley WV 25501.

1/44th Artillery (Vietnam, DMZ, Feb.-March, 1968)—Seeking Army or Marine personnel who witnessed the destruction of my M-41 Duster by a land mine during the daily mine sweep on the road between Cam Lo and Con Thien—Richard Smiley, 3031 Glacierwood Dr., Juneau, AK 99801.

Camp Gordon, GA., (April 16, 1952)—Seeking information regarding this Co. or anyone who was assigned to Co. F, (SCRTC), pole climbing—Jesse Lara, 522-A Teakwood, Laredo TX 78041.

12th USASA F/S Chitose, Japan (Summer, 67)—Seeking anyone with knowledge of my injury—Walt Thaxton, PO Box 458, Lebanon TN 37088-0458.

American Div., 196th LIB, 17th Cav., Trp. F—Seeking anyone who remembers my hospitalization (Chu Lai, Aug. 1968) for arthritis in my knees—Coleman Lowry, PO Box 203, Jones Mill AR 72105.

1st Div., 16th Inf., Co. H., (WWII)—Seeking members to substantiate claim—Glen Cupples, 101 Somerset, Greenfield TN 38230.

3rd Div., 15th Inf., Co. G—Seeking those who remember my machine gun position when I was hit—Walter Williams, R. No. 10, Box 450, Cookeville TN 38501.

American Div., 4/21st Inf., 11th Bde., 2nd Pltn., Bravo Co.—Seeking those who remember me as their medic. Especially Eddie Cloud, Perry, Sgt. Bonaparte, Skippy Tom & Sgt. Billy Joe—Santos Chalmers, PO Box 183, Whitewood SD 57793.

8th Army, 21st Trans. Car Co., (Seoul, Korea, 1952)—Seeking anyone in unit who remembers when I hurt my back while unloading drums of diesel fuel—Eugene Richard, PO Box 204, Bastrop LA 71220.
544th Engr., Boat & Shore Rgt., Co. A., (Oct. 9, 1944, Liki Island)—Seeking anyone remembering Pvt. William H. Thompson who was washed overboard and lost at sea—Doyle Landers, 2500 Old Maryville Pike, Knoxville TN 37920.

1st Armored Div., 16th Engr., Btry. C., Co. C—Seeking Don Kunkle, Rolly Wilkerson, Dietz & Kulish or anyone who remembers my injury (1951-52) at Fort Hood, TX—Peter Donahue, 2104 SE Grant St., Portland OR 97214.

NAVY

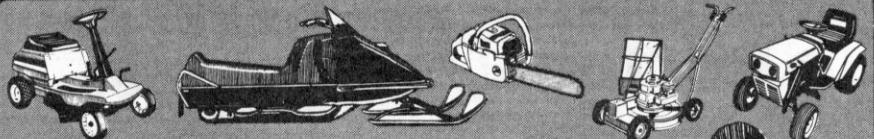
USS CFL (42), (1943-44)—Seeking anyone remembering my head injury sustained from a fall in the shower stall—Harry Neal, 1502 E. 55th St., Savannah GA 31404.

USS LST (1028)—Seeking anyone who was on board under Lt. Norman Knite who remembers being torpedoed and crew casualties on gun 43—Loyd Calhoun, VAMC Domiciliary Ward 8A, Dublin GA 31021.

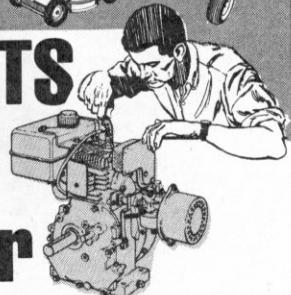
US Navy Armed Guard (WWII), SS Jeb Stuart—Seeking former shipmates to substantiate claim—J.P. Davis, RT 2, Opp AL 36467.

USS Autauga (AK-160)—Seeking former shipmate Coldart or Colvard—G.J. Thomson, PO Box 72, Poulsbo WA 98370.

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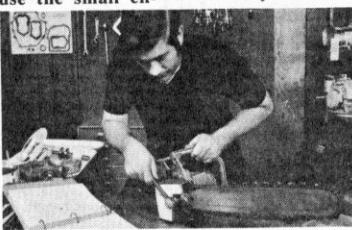
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R E U N I O N S

Reunion announcements are published as a cost-free service to VFW members in good standing. To ensure timely inclusion of your announcement, all information pertaining to the event must arrive in VFW Magazine offices six months prior to the reunion. Reunion announcement forms must be used and can be obtained by writing VFW Magazine, Reunions, 34th and Broadway, Kansas City MO 64111. Publication is limited to one time per calendar year.

AIR FORCE

2nd Bomb Grp., (1922-46)—Sept., Norfolk VA—C.P. Huntington, 721 Cascade Dr., San Jose CA 95129.
5th AF, 45th Svc. Sqdn., Hq & Hq., (So. Pacific, WWII)—June, Omaha NE—Leonard Cross, 6228 Nebraska Ave., Omaha NE 68183.

9th Strategic Recon. Wing (SAC)—May, Reno NV—Blackbird Reunion Committee, Box 3777, Beale AFB CA 95903-5000.

47th Bombardment Grp.—May, Long Beach CA—Costa Chalas, 67 Trapelo Rd., Belmont MA 02178.

58th AF, 69th Fighter Sqdn.—May, Dayton OH—Bob Humphreys, 5712 Rockhill Rd., Fort Worth TX 76112.

73rd Bomb Wing, (WWII)—May, Reno NV—Glenn McClure, 105 Circle Dr., Universal City TX 78148.

75th Air Police Sqdn.—Oct., San Antonio TX—Kenneth Brunmeier, PO Box 181, Onida SD 57564.

385th Bomb Grp. & Associated Serv.—Jul., Dayton OH—Ruel Weikert, 6306 Green Leaves Rd., Indianapolis IN 46220.

436th Sig. Construction Bn. Avn.—June, Nashville TN—Joe Mann, 103 W. Steele, Marlow OK 73055.

438th Troop Carrier Grp., (WWII)—May, Louisville KY—Ronald Worrell, 419 S. 4th St., DeKalb IL 60115.

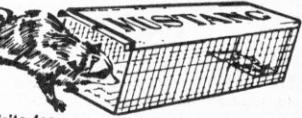
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490th Bomb Gp. H & support units (England, 1944-45)—May, Nashville TN—C.G. Montgomery, 5206 Lake Ct., Brentwood TN 37027.

ALL BRANCHES

Fort Sheridan, Ill. (All former military personnel)—Jun, Ft. Sheridan IL—Connie Fischer, Bldg. 205, Ft. Sheridan IL 60037-5000.

North Dakota Iwo Jima Veterans Assn.—Feb, Carrington ND—Leo Gray, Rt. 1, Box 110-A, Hankinson, ND 58041.

Stalag Luft III ex-POW's—May, Seattle—Irving Levin, 1521 179th Ave. Ne, Bellevue WA 98008.

ARMY

2nd Armored Div., 702nd TD Bn., Co. B—June, Cave City KY—James Ridenden, Box 422, Cooleemee NC 27014.

2nd Armored Div.—May, Nashville TN—Loren Guge, 8053 Highpoint Blvd., Brooksville FL 33573.

2nd Armored Div., 17th Engr. Bn., Co. A—May, Nashville TN—Willard Curtis, 110 S. Revena Blvd., Ann Arbor MI 48103.

continued on page 60

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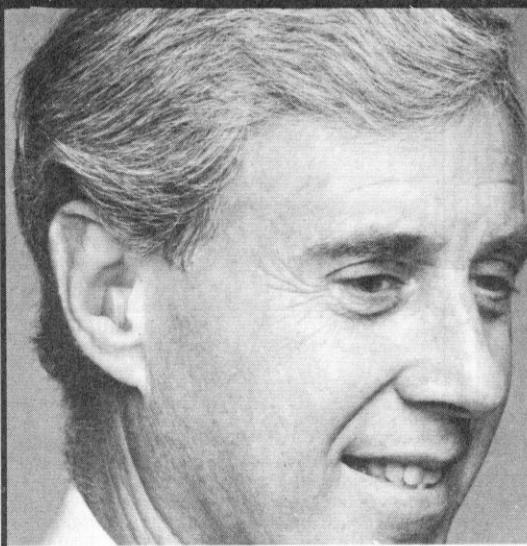
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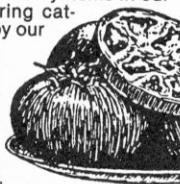
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R E U N I O N S

continued from page 59

4th Armored Div. Assn., (New York Chapter)—April, Ellenville NY—Harry Feinberg, 53 Washington Ave., Elmwood Park NJ 07407.

5th Army, 585th QM Co.—July, Indiana—Kenny Cahill, 901 N. Third St., Kentland IN 47951.

8th Div., 28th Inf., HQ Co., (WWII)—June, Gettysburg PA—Amos Stansbury, 917 Archie, Eugene OR 97402.

8th Svc. Gp., 11th Svc. Sqdn., 482nd Svc. Sqdn. & HQ Sqdn.—April, Lancaster PA—John Heckler, 76 E. Harbor Dr., Teaticket MA 02536.

9th Armored Div., 52nd Armored Inf. Bn., (WWII)—May, New Orleans LA—Vern Reaugh, 3009 Larkspur Run, Williamsburg VA 23185.

11th Armored Cav. Rgt., (Vietnam)—May, St. Louis MO—David Summers, 3923 Burgen, St. Louis MO 63116.

44th Div., 114th Inf.—Jun., West Hartford CT—John Betz, 120 S. Quaker Ln., West Hartford CT 06119.

45th Div., 180th Rgt.—May, McAlester OK—Secretary, Box 186, Calera OK 74730.

53rd Inf.—May, Minneapolis MN—Jared Fessenden, RR 3, Box 184, Monticello MN 55362.

65th Med. Rgt., (Fort Oglethorpe, GA., 1941-42)—June, Louisville KY—Charles Perkins, 1248 Community Park Dr., Columbus OH 43229.

66th Div.—Jun., Seattle WA—Robert Hesse, 26 E. Curtis St., Linden NJ 07036.

68th CA AA Rgt., & 895th AAA AW Bn., (WWII)—Mar., Orlando FL—Stewart Campbell, 25 Summer Hill Glen, Maynard MA 01754.

69th Inf. Rgt., 165th Inf.—March—69th Veterans Corps, PO Box 98, Madison Square Station, New York NY 10010.

78th Div. Assn.—Feb., Lakeland FL—Edward Kohnke, 4060 Willis Rd., Mulberry FL 33860.

112th Gen. Hosp. (WWII)—May—Frank Doherty, 25 Huntington Ave., Rm. 507, Boston MA 02116.

115th & 196th FA Bn., (WWII)—May, Lawton OK—Alfred Douglass, 2536 Frazier Ave., Fort Worth TX 76110.

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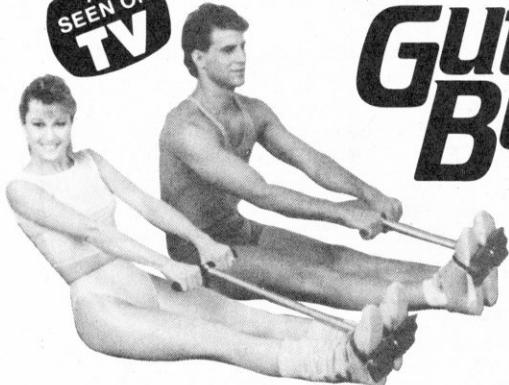
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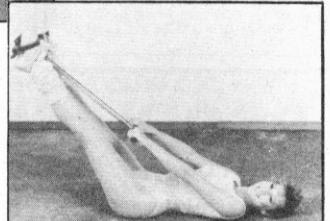
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126th Inf. Assn.—May, Wyoming MI—Benny Benedict, 1200 44th St. SW, Wyoming MI 49509.

128th AAA Gun Bn.—June, Louisville KY—Curtis Carr, 154 Ringo Ave., Frankfort KY 40601.

135th Ord. MM Co. (ETO, WWII)—March, Montvale, NJ—Frank Lanzante, 76 Clinton Park Dr., Bergenfield NJ 07621.

168th Chem. Co.—Sept., Falmouth MA—Robert Foster, 255 Union St., E. Walpole MA 02032.

208th MP Co.—April, Houston—Jim Waters, PO Box 936, Lufkin TX 75901.

243rd Sig. Operations Co.—April, Kissimmee FL—C.C. Hagedorn, 1515 Fifth Ave., Des Plaines IL 60018.

255th Ord. Co. MM—May, Grand Island NE—J.R. McNaunn, 1010 W. 13th, Hastings NE 68901.

272nd FA Bn.—May, Jackson TN—D.C. Mitchell, 202 N. 14th Ave., Humboldt TN 38343.

297th Ord. Co.—Mar., Kissimmee FL—Forest Melzer, 12640 Dunham Rd., Hartland MI 48029.

MARINES

2nd Amphibian Tractor Bn.—June, Moline IL—Bob Nelson, Box 464, Woodhull IL 61490.

3rd Mar. Div., 11th Eng. Bn., Co. C (Vietnam)—Sept., Chicago—Gene Spanos, 6121 N. Emerson St., Rosemont IL 60018.

3rd, 4th & 5th Mar. Divs.—Feb., Camp Pendleton—Jack Claven, 403 Primrose Pl., Glendora CA 91740.

10th Div., 2nd/155th mm, Howitzer Bn., 3rd Bn.—March, San Francisco—Lew Payne, 861 Rockdale Dr., San Francisco CA 94127.

NAVY

302nd NCB—July, Syracuse NY—Winfred Murdock, 7110 Buckley Rd., Liverpool NY 13088.

3115 NAB—July, Eau Claire WI—Donald McCrackin, 1721 Benton Ave., Eau Claire WI 54701.

SACO US Naval Gp. China—June, Annapolis MD—Charles Cox, 16201 Oxford Ct., Mitchellville MD 20716.

continued on page 63

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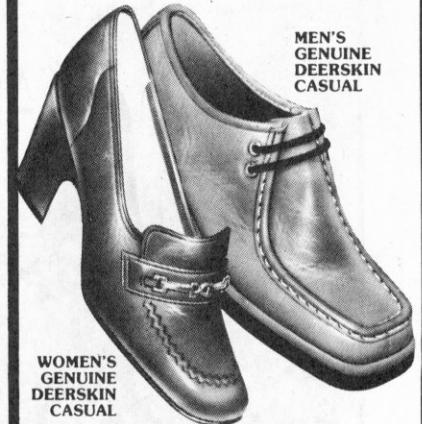
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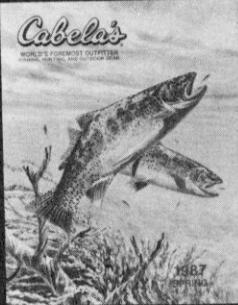
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REUNIONS

continued from page 61

USS Alexander J. Luke (DE-577)—May, Blowing Rock NC—Robert Bright, 527 Margaret Dr., Statesville NC 28677.

USS Algol (AKA-54)—Aug., Mt. Zion IL—Melvin Gibson, 800 Westside, Mt. Zion IL 62549.

US Armed Guard (WWII)—May, Kansas City MO—Leonard Carlson, 5894 N. St. Albans, Shoreview MN 55126.

USS Aulick (DD-569)—June, Long Beach CA—Gene Plummer, 40992 Grand Teton Ave., Hemet CA 92344.

USS Boggs (DD-136), (DMS-3) & (AG-19)—Sept.—Mark Schaefer, Rt. 1, Box 254 Leon, Sparta WI 54656.

USS Balao (SS-285), (WWII)—Aug., Little Rock AR—Merrill Edson, 9720 Waters Ave. S., Seattle WA 98118-5908.

USS Murray (DD-576)—March, Oak Lawn IL—John Opitz 9345 Menard, Oak Lawn IL 60453.

SEEKING

The Seeking column is published on a first-come first-served basis. Submission forms are available from VFW Magazine, Seeking, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City MO 64111.

USS Howard W. Gilmore (AS-16), (WWII)—Seeking former shipmates to compile roster and plan a future reunion—Walter Cliffe, Lot 150 Oak Leaf Dr., St. Charles MO 63301.

USS Chase (DE-151) & (AP-54)—Reunion?—Henry Sanders, 19 Bradford Dr., Salem NH 03079.

USS Brown (DD-546), (WWII)—Reunion?—Wayne Stokes, 5152 Newton, Shawnee Mission KS 66202.

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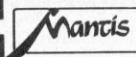
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"I'm not going tomorrow," he announced.

"Why not, dear?" asked his mother.

"Well, I can't read and I can't write and they won't let me talk — so what's the use?"

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"How old are you?" the jurist asked.

"Seventy," the man replied.

"Well, in that case," Holmes said, closing his checkbook, "I'd better give it to Him myself. I'll probably be seeing Him before you will."

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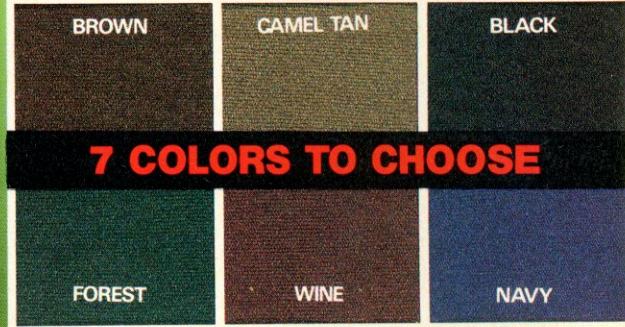
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